

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3H, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 3

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

(Private)

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Inclosed your Excellency will receive Ninety five dollars in Bank Notes; which, if my Subscription towards the support of the Revd. Mr. Caldwell's children was only Twenty Guineas, is about the Sum. As the Bank Notes, I presume, are considered (in Philadelphia at least) as ready money I have adopted this expedient as the easiest and safest mode of making you the remittance and have the honor etc.

***To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE**

(Private)

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: The last Post brought me your favor of the 26th. Ult., covering Doctr. Smith's Drafts of the 23d. for Fifty Guineas. I am obliged to you for paying the money, and charging it to the acct. mentioned; altho' I was provided for the demand, and should have paid the Bill at Sight.

I have lately purchased a piece of Land near Alexandria at the price of £2000 Virginia Curry. with a view to exchange it for a small Tract in the centre of the one on wch. my Seat is. A tract I have been twenty years endeavouring to obtain with little or no prospect of success before. To enable me to pay for it, I have borrowed the money in this State (of the Governor) and expected to have answered the Bills at this place till by yesterdays Post I was informed by my Agent, Mr. Lund Washington,

that the money was to be paid in Philadelphia; and that Mr. Robert Adam &ca. of Alexandria (who have the Bills upon me) were to set out in a few days to receive the Money. Under these circumstances, permit me to ask, if you can make it convenient, in the course of business, to pay the Sum of Eighteen hundred and Eighty pounds Virga. Curry. in Specie dollars at Six Shillings, in Philadelphia and receive the like Sum in specie (which I have by me) here ? If you can, the Inclosed Letter to Mr. Robt. Adam³¹ may be delivered. If you cannot, be so good as to return or destroy it.

I beg leave to suggest that the specie I have is unclipped, consequently if I could pay it here by weight I should be no looser; but, rather than disappoint those who expect to receive the money in Philadelphia I would pay it to your Order, if you answer the Bills upon me at that place, by tale and abide the loss.

The distresses to which I know you have

31. The Honble. Robt. Morris Esqr. will pay Mr. Lund Washington Bills upon me for £680 in your favor; £600 in favor of Mr. Peter Dew; and £600 in favor of Mr. Collin McIver.“— *Washington to Robert Adam*, Jan. 8, 1783. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

been driven from the numerous calls upon you for money without adequate funds to answer them, have ever been a restraint upon my applications for the most necessary purposes; perhaps I may have carried it to a criminal length with respect to secret Services; because rather than add to your embarrassments by my demands, I have submitted to grope in the dark without those certain and precise informations which every Man at the head of an Army ought, and the public Interest requires he should have, and this maugre the aid of my private purse and other funds which were not applicable to this essentially necessary purpose. Having given you this information I shall only add that, if it is in your power to afford me assistance it will come very oppertunely. If it is not, I am where I am.

I shall be obliged to you, (the Secretary at War having passed this place before the plan which you and he had determined upon for the Issues for the present year arrived) to inform me why and

upon what principle the regulation respecting the Sixteenth Ration for the Women of the Army was made ?

I have no doubt of a perfect agreement between the Army and the present Contractors, nor of the advantages wch. will flow from the consequent harmony. Sure I am, the Army will ask no more of the Contractors than their indubitable rights, and I am perswaded there is too much liberality and good sense in the latter to descend to the *low dirty* tricks which were

practiced in the time of Comfort Sands whose want of liberality, I will go further, and say lack of common honesty, defeated his favourite scheme of making money which appears to be the only object he had in view.

It is unnecessary for me I hope to add, in answer to your favour of the 19th. Ultio. that every support in my power towards carrying your schemes of œconomy into effect, shall be rendered most chearfully, as will any assistance I can give towards promoting your plans of revenue Altho' I am sorry to observe there does not appear the best disposition in some States to second your views.

Mrs. Washington joins me in respectful and affecte. Compliments to Mrs. Morris and yourself, and best wishes for the return of many happy New Years. The advanced Season and prospect of bad weather induced her to take the most direct Road to this place; otherwise she would have had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Morris in Philadelphia.

With great truth and sincerity etc.

My Compts. to Mr. Govr. Morris.

***To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON**

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 25th. of Deer. has

been duly received, and I thank you for the information contained in it.

The Marquis in his Letters to me, is not very explicit in his sentiments respecting the Negotiations of Peace; but refers me to his Official letter to you for his thoughts at large. In general, he holds up an idea, which perfectly accords with my opinion, that nothing will be concluded till the meeting of the British Parliament; and, if matters are not brought to a favourable Issue in a Month afterwards, that the War will rage in all its Fury.

Ever since the Secession of Mr. Fox and others from the Administration, I have been decidedly of opinion that Peace would not take place before that epocha. That it would depend upon the strength of the contending Parties, and their influence on the Nation, whether it would then happen or not; and that the intermediate space would be employed in Intriguing; In an investigation of powers, In hearing propositions, and in probing the intentions of one another to the bottom. These I suppose, would have been pretty well understood on all sides by the 26th of Novr. (as the Ground on which Lord Shelburne is placed, also would); it followed then, in my judgment, that the Ministry wd. communicate to and take the sense of Parliament on the terms upon which Peace could be obtained; and leave it with the nation to accept them, or furnish the means of prosecuting the War vigorously. The Power given to Mr. Oswald to treat with any Commission or Commissioners properly authorised from the United States of America, is

more than I expected wd. have happened before the Meeting of Parliament; but as the Gentlemen on the part of America could not treat with Him unless such powers were given, it became an Act of necessity to cede them to effect their other purposes. Thus I account for the indirect acknowledgmt. of our Independence by the King; who I dare say, felt some severe pangs at the time he put his hand to the Letters Patent. it is not however less efficacious or pleasing on that acct., and breaking the Ice is a great point gained.

There can be very little doubt I believe of the conclusn. of the Commercial treaty with Holland but I have apprehensions that that Power will be the most difficult to satisfy at the general Treaty of Peace.

It is with great pain I hear of the repeal of the Impost Law in Virginia; what could induce it ? what Office is Mr. Jefferson appointed to, that he has, you say, lately accepted ? If it is that of Commissioner of Peace, I hope he will arrive too late to have any hand in it. My best respects to him when he arrives and compliments in which Mrs. Washington joins to Mrs. Livingston. I have the honor etc.

***To MAJOR HODIJAH BAYLIES**

Head Quarters, Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 13th. of Decer. has been duly received.

You will recollect upon our first arrival in quarters, I proposed to the Gentlemen of my family to accommodate themselves by agreement as to the time of their absence, in the most convenient manner, leaving a sufficient number which I expected would be three at Head Qrs. to have the duties performed. I repeated the same to you the day before you left this.

Colonels Cobb, Trumbull, Tilghman, who could no longer wait return and yourself are, in consequence, now absent; the three former I suppose for the greater part or whole of the Winter; the extention therefore of your absence agreeably to your request, would continue to impose the business of and confinement to the Office very unequally upon the two remaining Gentlemen; besides confining me more than I wish or indeed ought to be within doors; however if it is a matter of agreement with them I shall not object to it merely on acct. of the inconvenience it is to me: otherwise you must be sensible I cannot consent to the indulgence, without deviating from the equitable plan I at first proposed.

I have only to remark farther, that notwithstanding some Officers of the Army have supposed, there was

nothing, or at least very little to be done in Winter Quarters, yet for my own part, I must confess I have never found it so, but on the contrary have frequently had as much business to be done by myself and Aids in that Season as in any part of the Campaign.

Under these considerations, whatever may be your determination, I shall still retain the same sentiments of esteem and regard with which etc.

***To JOHN PIERCE**

Newburgh, January 8, 1783.

Sir: I shall be obliged to you for a list of the several Sums which have been drawn from the Public for my use since the commencement of the War; mentioning to whom paid, and whether in Specie or Paper. I want to compare these with my own Warrant Book and the Expenditures to see how matters stand. I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

***To MAJOR GENERAL JOHN ARMSTRONG⁴⁰**

Newburgh, January 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: By Major Armstrong⁴¹ I had the honor to receive your favor of the 10th. of Octr., and in overlooking a bundle of unanswered letters I discovered among them another from you of the 29th. of June which had got there by mistake, as it required an immediate reply. It is rather out of Season, to assign causes at this late hour for the continuance of the Pennsylvania Recruits at Carlisle; but the truth of the matter is they were not, properly speaking, under my immediate orders; tho' in consequence of applications from the Officer Commanding I did give directions so far as

40. Of the Pennsylvania Militia.

41. Maj. John Armstrong (son of Major General Armstrong). He was aide to General Gates.

respected their supplies, and the preparation of them for the Field. You know, that by a Resolve of Congress the Troops of Pensylvania are designated part of the Southern Army. The Officers Commanding which, and the States Interested in the event, were constantly urging the March of them to the place of their destination. On the other hand, the difficulty in fitting them for the length of that March, and the probability (in my judgment) of its being an unnecessary one, caus'd me to delay the final Orders for it; especially as I had reason, at *that* time, to expect something serious in this Quarter. Under these circumstances I could not, without the sanction of Congress (which I knew could not be obtained without long and warm debates, if at all) have ordered them upon the Frontiers of Pensylvania. These were the Reasons wch. operated in my mind to the prevention of yrs. and the wishes of the settlers named in your Letter of the 29th. of June, which, by mistake, has remained unacknowledged till this time.

We have been, and now are, in a disagreeable State of suspense respecting Peace or War. My opinion of the matter, ever since the death of the Marqs. of Rockingham and secession of Mr. Fox, Burke &ca. has been uniformly the same; and no late European accts. that I have met with, has given me cause to alter it. It is, that no Peace would take place before the meeting of the British Parliament; and that it would even *then* depend upon the influence of the Crown and strength of the contending Parties. That previous to the Session, the British

Negotiators would be employed in Intriguing; In an investigation of Powers; hearing Propositions, and probing the Intentions of the Belligerent Powers to the Bottom, the latter being accomplished, the Minister (Lord Shelburne) if he found himself upon slippery ground, or that the voice of the People was loud for Peace, woud inform the Parliament, that after many Months spent in Negociation, such are the best Terms he can obtain. and, as they involve consequences of the greatest National concern, and have been the Subject of Seven years war and debate; it now rests with Parliament to accept them, or provide vigorously for the prosecution of the War; this would place the matter upon the broadest basis, remove responsibility from his door, and blunt the edge of opposition which, otherwise, I am perswaded will be very keen. The King, having by his Letters

Patent, authorized Mr. Oswald to treat with any Comr. or Commissioners from the *United States* of America, is certainly a great point gained but it was unavoidable on the part of England, as our Commissioners would not enter upon business with Mr. Oswald without; and the Minister dared not to meet the Parliament without having attempted something under the Peace Bill, which passed the Session before. Upon the whole, I am of Opinion that the terms of Peace were agreed on before the Adjournment for the Christmas Hollidays, or that we shall have at *least* another Campaign; how well the States are provided for the continuance of the War, let their Acts, and their policy answer.

The Army, as usual, are without Pay; and a great part of the Soldiery without Shirts; and tho' the patience of them is equally thread bear, the States seem perfectly indifferent to their cries. In a word, if one was to hazard for them an opinion, upon this subject, it would be, that the Army had contracted such a habit of encountering distress and difficulties, and of living without money, that it would be impolitic and injurious to introduce other customs in it! We have however, but this depended upon ourselves, built the most comfortable Barracks in the vicinity of this place that the Troops have ever yet been in.

I offer you the compliments of the Season and wish you may possess health and spirits to enjoy, after we shall have seated ourselves under our own Vines and Figtrees, if it is the gracious will of Providence to permit it, the return of many happy years. With great truth and sincerity, etc.

P S. Your Son was well a day or two ago, and is so now I believe.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN**

Newburgh, January 10, 1783.

My dear Sir: I have been favored with your letters of the 22d. and 24th. of last Month from Philadelphia, and thank you for the trouble you have had with my small Commissions. I have sent Mr. Rittenhouse⁴² the Glass of such Spectacles as Suit my Eyes, that he may know how to grind his Chrystals.

Neither Du Portail nor Gouvion are arrived at this place. To the latter, I am refer'd by the Marqs. de lafayette for some matters which he did not chuse to commit to writing⁴³ the sentiments however which he has delivered (with respect to the negociations for Peace) accord precisely with the Ideas I have entertained of this business, ever since the Secession of Mr Fox; viz: that no Peace would be concluded before the meeting of the British Parliament, and that if it did not take place within a Month afterwards, we might lay our Accts. for one more Campaign, at *least* .

The obstinacy of the King, and his unwillingness to acknowledge the Independency of this Country, I have ever looked upon as the greatest obstacles in the way of a Peace. Lord Shelburne, who is not only at the head of the Administration, but has been introducing others of similar sentiments to his own, has declared that nothing but *dire necessity* should ever force the measure.

42. David Rittenhouse.

43. See Lafayette's letter to Robert R. Livingston, June 25, 1782, in Wharton's *Diplomatic Correspondence*, vol. 5, P. 517, for the general tenor of these matters.

Of this necessity, Men will entertain different opinions. Mr Fox it seems thought the period had arrived some time ago; but Peace is not yet made nor will it, I conceive if the influence of the Crown can draw forth fresh Supplies from the Nation for the purpose of carrying on the War.

By the meeting of Parliament, Lord Shelburne wd have been able to ascertain two things; first, the best terms on which G. Britain cou'd obtain Peace from the Belligerent Powers. Secondly, the ground on which he himself stood. If he found it slippery, and that the voice of the People was for pacific measures, he wou'd then have informd the Parliamt. that after many Months spent in Negotiations such were the best terms he cou'd obtain; and that the alternative of accepting them, or preparing vigorously for the prosecution of the War was submitted to their consideration being an extraordy case and decision; A little time therefore, if I have formed a just opinion of the matter, will disclose the result of it. consequently, we shall either soon have peace, or not the most

agreeable prospect of War before us; as it appears evident to me that the States, *generally*, are sunk into the most profound lethargy, while *some of them* are running quite retrograde.

The King of G B by his Letters Patent (wch. I have seen) has Authorised Mr. Oswald to treat with any Comr. or Commissioners from the *United States* of America, who shall appear with proper Powers; this certainly,

is a capital point gained. It is at least breaking ground on *their* part; and I dare say proved a bitter work to Royalty; but, it was indispensably necessary to answer one of the points above mentioned, as the American Commissioners would enter on *no business* with Mr. Oswald till his powers were made to answer their purpose; upon the whole I am fixed in an opinion that Peace, or, a pretty long continuance of the War will have been determined on before the adjournment for the Hollidays, and as it will be the middle or last of Feby. before we shall know the result time will pass heavily on in this dreary mansion in which we are fast locked by frost and Snow.

Nothing new has happened in this quarter since you left it, except the abuse of me in a New York paper for having given *false information* to the Count de Vergennes, which says the writer was the occasion of the insinuatn. in *His Letter to me* of a want of B. Justice. I have not seen the Paper, but am told the author of the piece is *quite* in a passion at my want of ingenuity, and ascribes the release of Captn. Asgill to a *peremptory order* from the Ct. of France (in whose Service he places me) notwithstanding the soft and complaisant language of the French Ministr.

Mrs. Washington has received the Shoes you ordered for her and thanks you for your attention to her request. I receive with great sensibility and pleasure your assurances of affection and regard. It would be but a renewal of what I have often repeated to you, that there are few men

in the world to whom I am more sincerely attached by inclination than I am to you. With the cause, I hope, most devoutly hope, there will soon be an end to my Military Services. When, as our places of residence will not be far apart, I shall never be more happy than when I see you at Mount Vernon. I shall always be glad to hear from, and keep up a correspondence with you.

Mrs. Washington joins me in every wish that tends to your happiness. Humphrys and Walker who are the only Gentlemen of the family, with me at present, will speak for themselves. If this finds you at Baltimore I pray my respects to Mr. Carroll and Family. with the greatest esteem etc.

***To BUSHROD WASHINGTON⁶¹**

Newburgh, January 15, 1783.

Dear Bushrod: You will be surprized perhaps at receiving a letter from me; but if the end is answered for which it is written, I shall not think my time miss-spent.

Your Father, who seems to entertain a very favorable opinion of your prudence, and I hope you

61. Nephew of General Washington and son of John Augustine Washington. He was an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1798 to 1829.

merit it: in one or two of his letters to me, speaks of the difficulty he is under to make you remittances. Whether this arises from the scantiness of his funds, or the extensiveness of your demands, is matter of conjecture, with me. I hope it is not the latter, because common prudence, and every other consideration which ought to have weight in a reflecting mind is opposed to your requiring more than his conveniency and a regard to his other Children will enable him to pay; and because he holds up no idea in his Letter which would support me in the conclusion. yet when I take a view of the inexperience of Youth, the temptations in, and vices of Cities; and the distresses to which our Virginia Gentlemen are driven by an accumulation of Taxes and the want of a market; I am almost inclined to ascribe it, in part to both. Therefore, as a friend, I give you the following advice.

Let the object, which carried you to Philadelphia, be always before your Eyes; remember, that it is not the mere study of the Law, but to become eminent in the Profession of it which is to yield

honor and profit; the first was your choice, let the second be your ambition. and that dissipation is incompatible with both.

That the Company in which you will improve most, will be least expensive to you; and yet I am not such a Stoic as to suppose you will, or to think it right that you ought, always to be in Company with Senators and Philosophers; but, of the young and juvenile kind let me advise

you to be choice. It is easy to make acquaintances, but very difficult to shake them off, however irksome and unprofitable they are found after we have once committed ourselves to them; the indiscretions, and scrapes which very often they involuntarily lead one into, proves equally distressing and disgraceful.

Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence; true friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation.

Let your *heart* feel for the affliction, and distresses of every one, and let your *hand* give in proportion to your purse; remembering always, the estimation of the Widows mite. But, that it is not every one who asketh, that deserveth charity; all however are worthy of the enquiry, or the deserving may suffer.

Do not conceive that fine Clothes make fine Men, any more than fine feathers make fine Birds. A plain genteel dress is more admired and obtains more credit than lace and embroidery in the Eyes of the judicious and sensible.

The last thing I shall mention, is first of importance. and that is, to avoid Gaming. This is a vice which is productive of every possible evil. equally injurious to the morals and health of its rotaries. It is the child of Avarice, the brother of inequity, and father of Mischief. It has been the

ruin of many worthy familys; the loss of many a man's honor; and the cause of Suicide. To all those who enter the list, it is equally fascinating; the Successful gamester pushes his good fortune till it is

over taken by a reverse; the loosing gamester, in hopes of retrieving past misfortunes, goes on from bad to worse; till grown desperate, he pushes at every thing; and looses his all. In a word, few gain by this abominable practice (the profit, if any, being diffused) while thousands are injured.

Perhaps you will say my conduct has anticipated the advice, and that “not one of these cases apply to me.” I shall be heartily glad of it. It will add not a little to my happiness, to find those, to whom I am so nearly connected, pursuing the right walk of life; it will be the sure road to my favor, and to those honors, and places of profit, which their Country can bestow, as merit rarely goes unrewarded. I am, etc.

***To LADY STIRLING**

Newburgh, January 20, 1783.

My Lady: Having been informed by a Letter of the 14th. Instt. from Captn. Sill⁷⁵ of the unspeakable loss⁷⁶ Your

75. Capt. Richard Sill, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He was a major and aide to Lord Stirling from September, 1781, to January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

76. Lord Stirling died at Albany, N. Y, on Jan. 14, 1783, and was buried January 16.

Ladyship has experienced, I feel the sincerest dispositions to alleviate by sympathy or participation those sorrows which I am sensible cannot be removed or effaced. for this purpose, I would also have suggested every rational topic of consolation, was I not fully perswaded that the principles of Philosophy and Religion of which you are possessed had anticipated every thing I could say on the subject.

It only remains then, as a small but just tribute to the memory of My Lord Stirling to express how deeply I share in the common affliction, on being deprived of the public and professional assistance, as well as the private friendship of an Officer of so high Rank with whom I had lived in the strictest

habits of amity; and how much those Military Merits of his Lordship which rendered him respected in his life time, are now regretted by the whole Army.

It will doubtless be a soothing consideration in the poignancy of your grief to find that the General Officers are going into Mourning for My Lord.

Mrs. Washington joins me in requesting that your Ladyship and Lady Kitty will be assured that we feel the tenderest sensibility on this melancholy occasion. With Sentiments of perfect Esteem etc.

***To DANIEL PARKER⁹⁴**

Newburgh January 22, 1783.

Sir: It did not occur to me at the moment you were so obliging as to profer your Services at Boston that I was in want of as much superfine Buff Cloth (not of the yellow kind) as would make me a Vest Coat Breechs. and facings to a Coat; and that It was my wish to get as much Buff-Silk-Shag as would line a Coat and Vest-Coat. Inclosed I send a sample of the *kind* wanted, and shall thank you for procurg. and bg. these

94. A New York merchant and head of the firm of Daniel Parker & Co., contractors for supplying the Army with provisions.

things with you.

Mrs. Washington will thank you for getting for her Six yards of very fine Jacanet Muslin, Yard and half wide. The cost of these things shall be paid upon your arrival in Camp.⁹⁵ I am etc.

***To ROBERT ADAM**

Newburgh, January 27 [-30], 1783.

Dear Sir: I embrace this first opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th. from Philadelphia.

Your meeting with the smallest delay in receiving payment for the Land purchased of Messrs. Dow and Co. gives me pain. I receive no earthly advantage from it. I have been paying interest for the Money near two Months and one of these I have had it in my own desk.

Had Mr. Lund Washington, in *explicit* terms, informed me, that the money, by agreement, was to have been paid in Philadelphia, and given me the name of the Person with whom you had lodged a power to receive and acquit me of it; I should most assuredly, have sent it there.

95. On January 22 Washington wrote to David Henley, formerly colonel of one of the Sixteen Additional Continental regiments: "If Mr. Parker should have left Boston I will thank you for opening the inclosed Letter to him and complying with the Contents of it....I would be glad to get the Articles wrote for as soon as possible." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

But my deposite of it (previously to your arrival), and your enquiries for it afterwards must have been equally vague and uncertain, it appeared to me therefore that a hazard was to be incurred on my part by such a line of conduct without an adequate advantage on yours because not knowing who your corrispondents were I had no certain means of communicating the necessary information. All that I could do under these circumstances, I did, which was to request Mr. Morris (in a Letter of the 8th. Inst.) if he was acquainted with and saw you in Philadelphia, and could make it convenient to pay £1880 Virga. Curry. at that place and receive the like Sum here, to take up the Bills and draw on me for the amount. What has been done in consequence of it I know not, having heard nothing from that Gentleman since. I therefore send the aforesaid Sum of £1880 by Jno. Trumbull Esqr. who will take up my Bills with proper receipts on them.

This candid, and just state of matters will, I hope, be received as an apology for the disappointment you have met with, which under a want of proper information was scarcely to be avoided on my part.

I am very sorry to hear of the death of my old acquaintance and friend Doctr. Rumney. He has paid the debt which we all owe, and sooner or later shall be called upon to discharge. I am etc.

30th Jan: P. S. I was upon the point of sending off this Letter and the money when your 2d letter of the 21st. arrived and am happy to hear that matters are adjusted So much to your satisfaction.

***To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE**

(Private)

Newburgh, January 29, 1783.

dear Sir: As I never saw, nor never heard of the resolve of Congress spoken of the Secretary at War (as mentioned in your letter of the 21st Instt.) and conceive it a right inherent, with Command to limit (as circumstances and the nature of Service may require) the proportion of Women to the Men of an Army I confess I felt myself hurt by the interference of other departments without any previous notice or communication of sentiments with me on the Subject.

The import of the regulation of the Secy at W; and yourself, by fair deduction is, that an abuse existed, which required correction; by limiting the number of Rations for Women to a fifteenth of the Issues to Non-Commissioned Officers and privates when the fact is, that from calculation the new mode has added 52,560 Rations to the annual expence of the Army in this Quarter, as will appear by the inclosed Official return; and would if the strict letter had been

adhered to, have involved particular Corps in great distress.

It will appear, by having recurrence to my Orderly Book, that an Oeconomical attention to the public interest, in this case, has not been wanting; but that upon every return of the number of Women called for (at different periods) when compared with the totality of the Army, it has been found, that no general Rule consistent with American, or British Customs, could be established that would not encrease the agregate amount of the Issues and therefore that it was better to submit

to a surplus age in some Corps than to render the expence greater and the evil more extensive by adopting a limitation whh. would pervade the whole Army. especially too, as some of those Corps were, and still are, under particular circumstances. for instance the Regiments of York, which, in part, are composed of Long Islanders and others who fled with their families when the enemy obtained possession of those places and have no other means of Subsistence. The Cries of these Women; the sufferings of their Children, and the complaints of the Husbands would admit of no alternative. The latter with too much justice remarked “If *pay* is with-held from *us* , and *Provisions* from our *Wives* and *Children* we must all starve together; or commit Acts which may involve us in ruin.” Our Wives add they “could earn their Rations, but the Soldier, nay the Officer, for whom they Wash has naught to pay them.” In a word. I was obliged to give Provisions to the extra Women in these Regiments, or loose by Desertion, perhaps to the Enemy, some of the oldest and best Soldiers

in the Service. To suspend the publication of this allowe I could not because it was linked into and became part of a Plan which was to have an operation in a few days: to wit before the first of this Month.

You will, My dear Sir, consider this as a free, friendly, and confidential communication. I early assured you, and more than once, with great sincerity have repeated it, that you will find the best disposition in me to support your Administration and to give efficacy to your plans of œconomy as far as they came within my sphere of action. If therefore you perceive, or think you perceive any defect in the Police of the Army and will suggest a remedy, I pledge myself to you that I shall receive the information, and hints, as a test of your friendship; and will, as far as my judgment and powers extend endeavor to correct it. But if from misconception, mis-information, or a partial investigation, the interior of my business is taken up by others at the distance of 150 Miles, it is easy to conceive the confusion and bad consequences which must ensue.

Any Assistance or advice, which I can give to the Assistant Comy of Marine Prisoners at Dobbs's Ferry will be afforded with Pleasure. Under the regulations wch. I have established the imposition which you seem to apprehend, namely, applying money to Mercantile purposes under the ostensible

pretext and appearance of supporting the Prisoners, cannot be practiced, unless it is connived at by the Executive of the State from whence it comes; because it is a positive and standing order at that Post, when *alone* Flags are permitted, to suffer no Person to go in, send in, or have communication with any person on the Lines who is not vested with proper authority therefor, from Congress, the Executive of the

State in which the applicant lives, the Secretary at War, yourself, or Head Qrs. of the Army. That a correspondence is held with the Enemy through other Channels, I have not the smallest doubt; nor will five such Armies as I command prevent it, unless the States will make it Felony and execute the Laws with fidelity and strictness on Offenders, without respect to Persons. With great esteem etc.

***To BRYAN FAIRFAX**

Newburgh, February 5, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letter begun on the 26th. of Decr. and finished the 8th. of Jany. came to my hands by the last Post. The Inclosures for Lord Fairfax and your Brother I have put under cover to Sir Guy Carleton who will I am perswaded send them in the Packet for England. I have only to add on this subject that you need not at any time hesitate at, or apologize for sending

Letters of friendship or on business through my hands into New York; as I shall always have pleasure in being the medium of conveyance. and if Lord Fairfax and your Brother would adopt the same mode, nothing but the danger of the Seas, and risque of capture, would impede their passage to, and from you.

I scarce know what opinion to be of respecting the application of Doctr. Savage;³⁹ because in the first place we have no certainty of his Wifes death. Secondly because we do not (admitting the fact) know how she may have disposed of her Estate; and how far her support while living depended upon the credit of the Annuity. In a word how far it has been anticipated by Loans, which are

charged on it. Mr. Randolph,⁴⁰ the Attorney General, if the Papers are in his hands will be best able to decide the point upon a principle of Law and equal justice to all parties and to this Issue I would wish to leave the matter.

I have no occasion of the Letters from Mrs. Savage; but wish if there are any other Papers in my possession, at Mount Vernon, that are necessary to, or can through [*sic*] any light upon this business that you would apply to Mr. Lund Washington for and make such use of them as the nature of the case may require.

At present, we are fast locked in Frost and Snow; without a title of News. We look wisfully to the East, and to the South for an Arrival; supposing

39. See vols. 2 and 3, *ante*, for the Savage matter.

40. Edmund Randolph, Attorney General of Virginia.

the first European Vessel will bring the Speech of the British King, the Addresses, and debates thereupon; the last of which I expect, will discover the Ultimatum of the National determination respecting the continuance of the War, or acceptance of Peace upon such terms as the Negotiations for it have been able to strike out. If happily for all parties, the last should be the choice, it would give me much pleasure to assure you personally, of the unimpaired friendship of Dr. Sir, etc.

***To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE**

Newburgh, February 6, 1783.

My dear Sir: I have the pleasure to inform you that your Packet for Govr. Greene which came inclosed to me (in your private Letter of the 12th. of December) was forwarded in an hour after it came to my hands by a Gentleman returning to Rhode Island (Welcome Arnold Esquire); there can be no doubt therefore of its having got safe to the Governor.

It is with a pleasure which friendship only is susceptible of, I congratulate you on the glorious end you have put to hostilities in the Southern States; the honor and advantage of it, I hope, and trust, you will live long to enjoy.

when this hemisphere will be equally free is yet in the womb of time to discover; a little while, however 'tis presumed, will disclose the determinations of the British Senate with respect to Peace or War as it seems to be agreed on all hands, that the present Premeir (especially if he should find the opposition powerful) intends to submit the decision of these matters to Parliament. The Speech, the Addresses, and Debates for which we are looking in every direction, will give a data from which the bright rays of the one, or the gloomy prospect of the other, may be discovered.

If Historiographers should be hardy enough to fill the page of History with the advantages that have been gained with unequal numbers (on the part of America) in the course of this contest, and attempt to relate the distressing circumstances under which they have been obtained, it is more than probable that Posterity will bestow on their labors the epithet and marks of fiction; for it will not be believed that such a force as Great Britain has employed for eight years in this Country could be baffled in their plan of Subjugating it by numbers infinitely less, composed of Men oftentimes half starved; always in Rags, without pay, and experiencing, at times, every species of distress which human nature is capable of undergoing.

I intended to have wrote you a long letter on sundry matters but Majr. Burnett popped in unexpectedly, at a time when I was preparing for the Celebration of

the day; and was just going to a review of the Troops, previous to the Foe de joy. As he is impatient, from an apprehension of the Sleighing failing. and as he can give you the occurrences of this quarter more in detail than I have time to do, I will refer you to him. I cannot omit informing you however, that I let no opportunity slip to enquire after your Son George⁴⁴ at Princeton, and that it is with pleasure I hear he enjoys good health, and is a fine promising boy.

Mrs. Washington joins me in most Affectionate regards, and best wishes for Mrs Greene and yourself. With great truth and sincerity and every sentiment of friendship. I am etc.

***To THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Newburgh, February 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 22d. of Jany. from Philadelpa. I feel myself much flattered by your kind remembrance of me in the hour of your departure from this Continent.⁶⁵ and for the favourable Sentiments you are pleased to entertain of my Services for this our common Country. To merit the approbation of good and virtuous Men is the height

44. George Washington Greene.

On February 6 Washington wrote to Gates that he was satisfied with the reasons Gates assigned [for his posting Lieutenant Colonels Newhall and Hull to the Fourth and Sixth Massachusetts Regiments, respectively]. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

65. Jefferson did not leave America. as the news of the successful negotiation of the preliminary treaty of peace made it unnecessary. Congress decided, Apr. 3, 1783, that it was unnecessary for him to proceed.

of my ambition, and will be a full compensation for all my toils and Sufferings in the long and painful Contest we have been engaged.

It gave me great pleasure to hear that the call upon you from Congress to pass the Atlantic in the Character of one of their Ministers for Negotiating Peace, had been repeated.⁶⁶ But I hope you will have found the business already done.

The Speech of his Britainic Majesty is strongly indicative of the Olive branch; and yet, as he observes, unforeseen events may place it out of reach. At present, the prospect of Peace absorbs,

or seems to do so, every other consideration among us; and would, it is to be feared, leave us in a very unprepared state to continue the War if the Negotiations at Paris should terminate otherwise than in a general pacification. but I will hope that it is the dearth of other News that fills the Mouths of every person with Peace while their Minds are employed in contemplating on the means for prosecuting the War, if necessity should drive us to it.

You will please to accept my grateful thanks for your obliging offer of Services during your stay in France. To hear frequently from you, will be an honor and very great satisfaction to Dr. Sir etc.

66. Jefferson had been elected in 1776 one of the United States Commissioners to France, but had declined serving.

***To JOSEPH JONES**

Newburgh, February 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am about to write you a Letter on a subject equally important and delicate, which may be extensive in its consequences and serious in its nature. I shall confine myself to the recital of what I believe to be facts, and leave it with you, to make deductions.

The printed remonstrance of Mr. Chittenden and his Council addressed to the President of Congress, and founded upon the resolves of the 5th. of December last, contains a favourable recital, in their own behalf, of what I suppose to be facts; but if my memory serves me, it is an uncandid performance, inasmuch as it keeps out of view an important transaction of theirs, which was consequent of those resolves. Be this as it may, matters seem to be approaching too fast to a disagreeable Issue for the quiet of my Mind. The resolves on one hand, and the remonstrances on the other, (unless it should be annulled by the Legislature at their next meeting, which I do not expect) seems to leave little room for an amicable decision.

Matters being thus situated, permit me to ask how far, and by what means, coercion is to be extended? The Army, I presume, will be the answer to the latter. circumstances alone (for no determination whatever, after blood is once drawn) can

prescribe bounds to the former. It has been said, but of this you can judge better than I, that the Delegates from the New England States in Congress, or the Majority of them, are willing to admit these People into the Federal Union as an Independent and Sovereign State. be this as it may, two things I am sure of, viz. that they have a powerful interest in those States; and have pursued very politic measures to strengthen and increase, long before I had any knowledge of the matter, and before the tendency of it was seen into, or suspected; by granting, upon very advantageous terms, large Tracts of Land, in which, I am sorry to find, the Army, in some degree, have participated.

Let me next ask, by whom is that district of Country principally settled? And of whom is your present Army (I do not confine the question to this part of it, but will extend it to the whole) composed? the answers are evident, New Englandmen.

It has been the opinion of some, that the appearance of force would awe these People into submission. If the General Assembly ratifie and confirm what Mr. Chittenden and his Council have done, I shall be of a very different Sentiment; and moreover, that it is not a trifling force that will subdue them; even supposing they do derive no aid from the Enemy in Canada. and that it will be a very arduous task indeed, if they should; to say nothing of a diversion which may, and doubtless would be made in their favor from New York, if the

War with Great Britain should continue.

The Country is very Mountainous, full of Defiles, and extremely strong. The Inhabitants for the most part are a hardy race, composed of that kind of People who are best calculated for Soldiers; in truth who are Soldiers: for many, many hundreds of them are Deserters from this Army; who having acquired property there, would be desperate in the defence of it, well knowing they are fighting with Halts about their Necks.

It may be asked, if I am acquainted with the Sentiments of the Army on the subject of this dispute? I readily answer No: not intimately; it is a matter of too delicate a Nature to agitate for the purpose of information. but I have heard many Officers of Rank and discernment, and have learned by indirect inquiries, that others, express the utmost horror at the very idea of shedding blood in this dispute comparing it in its consequences, tho' not in its principles, to the quarrel with Great Britain; who thought it was only to hold up the rod, and all would be hush!

I cannot at *this time* undertake to say there would be any difficulty with the Army if it was to be ordered upon this Service; but I should be exceedingly unhappy to see the experiment. for besides the reasons before suggested, I believe there would be a great, and general unwillingness in it, to embrue their hands in the blood of their Brethern.

I have to add, that almost at the same

instant, a number of the printed Copies of the remonstrance were dissiminated through the Army. what effect it will have I know not; the design is obvious.

I promised in the beginning of this Letter, that I should content myself with a simple relation of facts. I shall only lament therefore, that Congress did not, in the commencement of this dispute, act decidedly. This matter, as you well know, was much agitated last Winter; and a Committee of Congress with whom I had the honor to be in conference, and of wch. I believe you were one, saw Mr. Chittenden's letter to me; and approved of my writing him an answer, to the effect it was given. With great regard etc.

***To LUND WASHINGTON**

Newburgh, February 12, 1783.

Dear Lund: Your letter of the 29th. of Jany. came by the last Post. You do not seem to have considered the force and tendency of the words of yr. letter when you talk of the probability *only*

of sending me “the long promised account” “the irregularity of them”; not you add “for want of knowledge in keeping them but neglect; your aversion to writing” &ca.

&ca. These are but other words for saying, “as I am not fond of writing, and it is *quite* immaterial whether you have any knowledge or information of your private concerns or whether the accts. are kept properly or not, I have delayed, and do not know how much longer I may continue to delay bringing you acquainted with these accts. irregular as they are.”

Delicacy hitherto, and a hope that you long ago would have seen into the propriety of the measure, without a hint of it from me, has restrained me from telling you that annual Accts. of my Crops, together with the receipts and expenditure of my money, state of my stocks, &ca. ought to have been sent to me as regularly as the year came about. It is not to be supposed, that all the avocations of my public duties, great and laborious as they have been, could render me totally insensible to the *only means* by which myself and family; and the character I am to maintain in life hereafter, is to be supported, or that a precise acct. of these matters would not have been exceedingly satisfactory to me. Instead of this, except the Acct. rendered at Valley forge in the year 1778 I have received none since I left home; and not till after two or 3 applications in the course of last year could I get any acct. of the Crop of the preceeding one; and then only of the Corn by the Post on Sunday last.

I have often told you, and I repeat it with much truth; that the entire confidence which I placed in your integrity made me easy, and I was always happy at thinking

that my Affairs were in your hands, which I could not have been, if they had been under the care of a common Manager; but this did not exempt me from the desires which all men have, of knowing the exact state of them. I have now to beg that you will not only send me the Account of your receipts, and expenditures of Specie; but of every kind of money subsequent to the Acct. exhibited at Valley Forge, which ended sometime in April 1778.

I want to know before I come home (as I shall come home with empty pockets whenever Peace shall take place) how Affairs stand with me, and what my dependence is.

I wish to know also, what I have to expect from the Wheat of 1781 and 82, as you say the two Crops are so blended that they cannot be rendered seperately? How are settlements to be made with and justice done to the several Parties Interested under these circumstances?⁷²

***To DAVID RITTENHOUSE**

Newburgh, February 16, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 7th., and beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the favor

72. Endorsed by Washington: "Extract of a Letter to Mr Lund Washington."

confered on me in the Glasses, which are very fine, but more particularly for the flattering expressions which accompanied the present.

The Spectacles suit my Eyes extremely well, as I am perswaded the reading glasses also will when I get more accustomed to the use of them. At present I find some difficulty in coming at the proper Focus; but when I do obtain it, they magnify properly and shew those objects very distinctly which at first appear like a mist blended together and confused.

I send the amount of the Silver Smiths charge, and with great esteem etc.

***To MISS LUCY RANDOLPH²⁵**

Newburgh, February 23, 1783.

Madam: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th. of last Month, and to inform you that your Letter to Sir Guy Carleton covering one for Mrs. Necks was sent into New York last Week, and that I had a pleasure in doing it.

If, at any time, you should have occasion to write to your Friends in England and will send the Letters

25. Of Wilton, Va.

under cover to me, I will take care to have them forwarded safely to the extremity of our lines. I pray to make a tender of my best respects to Mrs. Randolph. I have the honor etc.

***To RICHARD MORRIS³⁴**

Newburgh, February 25, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of the 15th. Instt. I am sorry you should have given yourself the trouble of accounting so minutely for the delay of Colo. Ogdens Letter to me. The reason, I presume, of his mentioning the matter to you was, that not receiving an answer to it in the time he expected, he wrote me a second Letter referring to the first; upon which, I informed him that the Letter recommended to your care had been long on its passage, and was left by an unknown person (a Soldier I believ'd) at my Office and that this was the cause of the delay on my part. With great esteem etc.

34. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New York.

On February 25 Washington wrote briefly to Mrs. Richard Bennett LLoyd, informing her that her letters had been sent into New York. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book."

***To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE**

February 25, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have no objection to your setting out for Boston tomorrow, and heartily wish you a pleasant Journey and safe return.

My Sentiments publicly and privately have been so fully delivered, that I shall say nothing respecting your return.

I do not wish to defeat the end and purposes of your going, by limiting the term of your absence to a shorter period than is necessary to accomplish the business which carries you from Camp; and having a reliance on your prudence and regard to propriety, shall leave you at liberty to extend, if necessary, your absence beyond the 15th of April; as I am perswaded the example of it will not escape your own reflections.

I thank you for your assurances of friendship and Attachment, and am etc.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH**

Newburgh, March 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with your private letter of the 24th Ultio, and thank you for the information contained in it.⁶⁷

It is much to be regretted, that while I am using every means in my power to comply with the orders of Congress, founded, in my judgment, on our true interest and policy, that there should be such a counteraction as we daily experience by individuals. But lamentable indeed is our situation when States, or the Administration of them, are leaping over those

67. "The people of Connecticut are falling into their [the British] Plans, and I am sorry to say are supported by the Govr. and Executive of the State....People pass, and repass, without interruption and even carry on a trade under sanction of flags (from Govr. Trumbull) thro' the sound."— *Smith to Washington*, Feb. 24, 1783. Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

bounds which should ever be deemed the sacred barrier betwn. us and the Enemy, without which all opposition to their measures must soon cease. or dwindle into something, ridiculous enough.

That the intercourse with New York by way of the Sound is in a measure without restriction, I have little doubt of; and that the very Boats which are Armed and Commissioned for the purpose of cutting off the Communication, are employed in facilitating the Trade, I have a recent instance of, in one caught by Major Talmadge in the Act, and with the goods on board.

We have only to persevere, and with the means we possess, give all the checks to it in our power. Every Officer who exerts himself in this business will meet every support I can give; and will undoubtedly merit the approbation of Congress.

With respect to the other matters contained in your letter, I have to entreat that you will keep an attentive eye towards them that you may be able to give me the best information respecting them that the nature of the case will admit when required.⁶⁸ Let the motives to these enquiries be hid from those about you, and confined to your own breast; I have reasons for giving you this caution, but cannot entrust them to Paper. I am etc.

68. The other matters were the reported weak condition of the British posts at the north end of York Island; the few troops stationed therein and the few officers on the lines. "Their officers in general are involved in, and attend to the dissipation prevalent in the City."

***To JOHN PIERCE**

Newburgh, March 5,⁹⁰ 1783.

Sir: I am about revising my Accts. with the public from the beginning, in order to make a thorough digest of them for Settlement.⁹¹

In going over them, I find I have given credit for some advances with which I am not charged in the Acct. you sent me last; particularly 1000 Dollars paid to Colo. Tilghman Deer. 10th. 1781, and the like sum to Lt. Colfax the 7th. of Feby. following. On the other hand, it is not impossible but that I may have omitted credits which ought to have been given; I beg therefore you will let me know

with precision the whole amount from *all the Offices* , of Monies charged to me, or others for my use, that I may be able to comprehend and draw the whole into one point of view.

I wish to know also, whether Genl. McDougall stands charged with a Sum in Specie in your Books, the Treasury Books, or Registers Office, with a Sum in Specie for Secret Services between the first of Jany. and middle of March 1779; and if such charge should appear, to what amount, and to whom paid for his use. This information is necessary in the liquidation of my Accts.

On the 27th Ulto. I requested to know

90. The draft, also in the writing of Washington, is dated March 3.

91. This “digest” was forwarded to the Treasury July 1, 1783.

whether I stood charged with any sum in your Books “between Feby. and May 1777; to whom it was paid, for what Sum, and the precise date.” I pray you to give me answers to these points by the first Post after this letter reaches you. I am etc.⁹²

***To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON**

Newburgh, March 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 31st. of Jany. came to my hands the Post before last, and the Acct. from Genl. Lavalette⁷³ by the last Post. Upon receipt of the latter, your Letter and Lavalettes acct. was sent to Sir Guy Carleton with a request to remit the money to Colo. Smith at Dobbs's Ferry; who is desired to forward it to the Chevr. de la Luzerne at Philadelphia.

You ask what my expectations of Peace are? I answer, I am scarcely able to form any ideas at all on the subject, since I have seen (what is called, for we have no authentic acct. of its being so) the King's Speech; and the variety of contradictory reports respecting the Negotiations for

92. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure. of New York City.

73. Charles François Chand#on, Chevalier de La Valette, lieutenant colonel Regiment Saintonge, French allied troops. He had been promoted in December, 1781, to brigadier d'infanterie.

it. The Enemy in New York are as impatient, and as much in the dark as we are on this occasion; not having received a Packet for more than two Months. Although I cannot give you a decided opinion, under present appearances, I will transcribe the answer I gave about the first of Jany. to a question similar to yours from a Gentleman of my acquaintance in Maryland; which as matters are yet undecided, or rather the decision, if any, unannounced, I see no occasion to depart from.

“My opinion of the matter ever since the death of the Marqs. of Rockingham...”⁷⁴

74. The omitted portion is identical with Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. John Armstrong, Jan. 10, 1783, *q. v.* Washington had written (January 10) to Tench Tilghman, who was in Maryland, the same substance but not the same words as those to Armstrong.

What, My dear Sir, could induce the State of Virginia to rescind its assent to the Impost Law? How are the numerous Creditors in Civil life and the Army to be paid if no regular and certain funds are established to discharge the Interest of Monies borrowed for these purposes? and what Tax can be more just or better calculated to this end than an Impost?

The alarm Bell, which has been rung with such tremendous sound by the State of Rhode Island, to shew the danger of entrusting Congress with the Money, is too selfish and feutile to require a serious answer. Congress are in fact, but the People; they return to them at certain short periods; are amenable at all times for their conduct, and subject to a recall at any moment. What interest therefore can a man have, under these circumstances distinct from his Constituents; Can it be supposed, that with design, he would form a junto, or pernicious Aristocracy that would operate agt. himself; in less than a month perhaps, after it was established? I cannot conceive it. but from the observations I have made in the course of this War (and my intercourse with the States in

their United as well as separate capacities has afforded ample opportunities of judging) I am decided in my opinion, that if the powers of Congress are not enlarged, and made competent to all *general purposes*, that the Blood which has been split, the expence that has been incurred, and the distresses which

have been felt, will avail us nothing; and that the band, already too weak, wch. holds us together, will soon be broken; when anarchy and confusion must prevail.

I shall make no apology for the freedom of these Sentiments. they proceed from an honest heart, altho' they may be the result of erroneous thinking. they will at least prove the sincerity of my friendship, as they are altogether undisguised. With the greatest esteem etc.

[H. S. P.]

***To ALEXANDER HAMILTON⁷⁵**

Newburgh, March 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of February,⁷⁶ and thank you for the information and observations it has conveyed to me. I shall always think myself obliged by a free communication of Sentiments, and have often thought (but suppose I thought wrong as it did not accord with the practice of Congress) that the public interest might be benefitted, if the Commander in Chief of the Army was let more into the political and pecuniary state of our Affairs than he is. Enterprises, and the adoption of Military and other arrangements that might be exceedingly

75. New York Delegate to Congress.

76. The original of this letter was removed from the *Washington Papers* and placed with the *Alexander Hamilton Papers* by John C. Hamilton. It is hastily written; and the date, having been written over by Alexander Hamilton, could be either February 13 or 17. John C. Hamilton, Lodge, and Sparks, in his *Letters to Washington*, published this letter under date of February 7.

proper in some circumstances would be altogether improper in others. It follows then by fair deduction, that where there is a want of information there must be chance medley; and a man may be upon the brink of a precipice before he is aware of his danger. when a little foreknowledge might enable him to avoid it. But this by the by.

The hint contained in your letter, and the knowledge I have derived from the public Gazettes respecting the non-payment of Taxes, contain all the information I have received of the danger that stares us in the face on Acct. of our funds, and so far was I from conceiving that our Finances was in so deplorable a state *at this time* that I had imbibed ideas from some source or another, that with the prospect of a loan from Holland, we should be able to rub along.

To you, who have seen the danger, to which the Army has been exposed, to a political dissolution for want of subsistence, and the unhappy spirit of licentiousness which it imbibed by becoming in one or two instances its own providers, no observations are necessary to evince the fatal tendency of such a measure; but I shall give it as my opinion, that it would at this day be productive of Civil commotions and end in blood. Unhappy situation this! God forbid we should be involved in it.

The predicament in which I stand

as Citizen and Soldier, is as critical and delicate as can well be conceived. It has been the Subject of many contemplative hours. The sufferings of a complaining Army on one hand, and the inability of Congress and tardiness of the States on the other, are the forebodings of evil, and may be productive of events which are more to be deprecated than prevented; but I am not without hope, if there is such a disposition shewn as prudence and policy will dictate, to do justice, that your apprehensions, in case of Peace, are greater than there is cause for. In this however I may be mistaken, if those ideas, which you have been informed are propagated in the Army should be extensive; the source of which may be easily traced as the old leaven, *it is said*, for I have no proof of it, is again, beginning to work, under a mask of the most perfect dissimulation, and apparent cordiality.

Be these things as they may, I shall pursue the same steady line of conduct which has governed me hitherto; fully convinced that the sensible, and discerning part of the Army, cannot be unacquainted (altho' I never took pains to inform them) of the Services I have rendered it on more occasions than one. This, and pursuing the suggestions of your Letter, which I am happy to find coincides with my practice for several Months past and which was the means of directing the business of the Army into the Channel it now is, leaves me under no *great* apprehension of its exceeding the bounds of reason and moderation, notwithstanding the prevailing sentiment in the Army is, that the prospect of compensation for past Services will terminate with the War.

The just claims of the Army ought, and it is to be hoped will, have their weight with every sensible Legislature in the Union,⁷⁷ if Congress point to their demands; shew (if the case is so) the reasonableness of them, and the impracticability of complying with them without their Aid. In any other point of view it would, in my opinion, be impolitic to introduce the Army on the Tapis; lest it should excite jealousy, and bring on its concomitants. the States cannot, surely, be so devoid of common sense, common honesty, and common policy as to refuse their aid on a full, clear, and candid representation of facts from Congress; more especially if these should be enforced by members of their own Body; who might demonstrate what the inevitable consequences of failure will lead to.

In my opinion it is a matter worthy of consideration how far an Adjournment of Congress for a few Months is advisable. The Delegates in that case, if they are in Unison themselves, respecting the great defects of their⁷⁸ Constitution, may represent them fully and boldly to their Constituents. to me, who know⁷⁹ nothing of the business which is before Congress, nor of the Arcanum, it appears that such a measure would tend to promote the public weal; for it is clearly my opinion, unless Congress have powers competent to all *general* purposes, that the distresses we have encountered, the expence we have incurred, and the blood we have spilt in the course of an Eight years war, will avail us nothing.

77. The draft has “United States.”

78. The draft has “our.”

79. “Know” is supplied from the draft.

The contents of your letter is known only to myself, and your prudence will direct what should be done with this. With great esteem etc.⁸⁰

***To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON**

Newburgh, March 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: The honor of your favor, dated, the 26th. Ult, inclosing the resolves of Congress of the 20th. preceding, and a state of the Negotiations for a general pacification (when your last advices were dated) came duly to hand; and I thank you for the information, and your observations thereon.

The present state of suspence, in which we are held with respect to Peace or War is not more irksome than it is unaccountable; unless the detention of the Cadiz Fleet, giving more time for mænuvring, has inspired hope in some of the contending parties of bettering their terms; especially on the part of Great Britain on whom I suppose the treaty will bear hardest.

Mrs. Washington unites her compliments and best wishes with mine, to Mrs. Livingston, and the other ladies of your family. I am etc.

80. From the *Alexander Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

In Madison's “Notes of Debates in the Continental Congress,” under Feb. 20, 1783 (*Journals of the Continental Congress*, L. C. Edn., vol. xxv, p. 906), Hamilton and Richard Peters informed the company met at Thomas FitzSimons' “that it was certain that the army had secretly determined not to lay down their arms until due provision and a satisfactory prospect should be afforded on the subject of their pay; that there was reason to expect that a public declaration to this effect would

soon be made; that plans had been agitated if not formed for subsisting themselves after such declaration; that as proof of their earnestness on this subject, the Commander was already become extremely unpopular, among almost all ranks from his known dislike to every unlawful proceeding, that this unpopularity was daily increasing and industriously promoted by many leading characters; that his choice of unfit and indiscreet persons into his family was the pretext and with some the real motive; but the substantial one a desire to displace him from the respect and confidence of the army in order to substitute Genl. [erased and illegible] as the conductor of their efforts to obtain justice. Mr. Hamilton said that he knew Genl. Washington intimately and perfectly, that his extreme reserve, mixed sometimes with a degree of asperity of temper, both of which were said to have increased of late, had contributed to the decline of his popularity; but that his virtue his patriotism and firmness would it might be depended upon never yield to any dishonorable or disloyal plans into which he might be called; that he would sooner suffer himself to be cut to pieces; that he, (Mr. Hamilton), knowing this to be his true character, wished him to be the conductor of the army in their plans for redress, in order that they might be moderated and directed to proper objects, and exclude some other leader who might foment and misguide their councils; that with this view he had taken the liberty to write to the Genl. on this subject and to recommend such a policy to him.”

***To JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM**

Newburgh, March 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 21st. Ult. and beg your acceptance of my particular acknowledgments for the honorauble and flattering manner in which you have spoken of me, in the dedication to your Oration, delivered before our Brethren at Providence.

The Sentiments which you have expressed in your Oration⁶ I have read with pleasure, and am with great esteem etc.

***To JOSEPH JONES**

Newburgh, March 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 27th. Ulto., and thank you for the information and freedom of your communications.

My Official Letter to Congress of this date will inform you of what has happened in this Quarter,

6. “An | Oration: | delivered in | The Episcopal Church in Providence (Rhode-Island) | Before the | Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of | Free and Accepted | Masons, | On the American Festival of St. John the Evan- | gelist, December 27, 1782, |...| Providence: Printed by John Carter. |” From a pamphlet which is in the *Washington Papers*.

in addition to which, it may be necessary it should be known to you, and to such others as you may think proper, that the temper of the Army, tho. very irritable on acct. of their long-protracted sufferings has been apparently extremely quiet while their business was depending before Congress untill four days past. In the mean time, it should seem reports have been propagated in Philadelphia that dangerous combinations were forming in the Army; and this at a time when there was not a syllable of the kind in agitation in Camp.²³

It also appears, that upon the arrival of a certain Gentleman from Phila. in Camp, whose name, I do not, at present, incline to mention²⁴ such sentiments as these were immediately and industriously circulated. That it was universally expected the Army would not disband untill they had obtained Justice. That the public creditors looked up to them for redress of their Grievances, would afford them every aid, and even join them in the Field, if necessary. That some Members of Congress wished the Measure might take effect, in order to compel the Public, particularly the delinquent States, to do justice. With many other suggestions of a Similar Nature; from whence, and a variety of other considerations it is generally believ'd the Scheme was not only planned, but also digested and matured in Philadelphia; and that some people have been playing a double game; spreading at the Camp and in Philadelphia Reports and raising jealousies equally void of Foundation untill

called into being by their vile Artifices; for as soon as the Minds of the Army were thought to be prepared

23. "Reports are freely circulated here that there are dangerous combinations in the Army, and within a few days past it has been said, that they are about to declare, they will not disband untill their demands are complied with."— *Joseph Jones to Washington*, Feb. 27, 1783. Jones's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

24. Col. Walter Stewart.

for the transaction, anonymous invitations were circulated, requesting a general Meeting of the Officers next day; at the same instant many Copies of the Address to the Officers of the Army was scattered in every State line of it.

So soon as I obtained knowledge of these things, I issued the order of the 11th. (transmitted to Congress;) in order to rescue the foot, that stood wavering on the precipice of despair, from taking those steps which would have lead to the abyss of misery while the passions were inflamed, and the mind trimblingly alive with the recollection of past sufferings, and their present feelings. I did this upon the principle that it is easier to divert from a wrong to a right path, than it is to recall the hasty and fatal steps which have been already taken.

It is commonly supposed, if the Officers had met agreeable to the anonymous Summons, resolutions might have been formed, the consequences of which may be more easily conceived than expressed. Now, they will have leisure to view the matter more calmly and seriously. It is to be hoped they will be induced to adopt more rational measures, and wait a while longer for the settlemts. of their Accts.; the postponing of which gives more uneasiness in the Army than any other thing. there is not a man in it, who will not acknowledge that Congress have not the means of payment; but why not say they, one and all, liquidate the Accts. and certifie our dues? are we to be disbanded and sent home without this? Are we,

afterwards, to make individual applications for such settlements at Philadelphia, or any Auditing Office in our respective states; to be shifted perhaps from one board to another; dancing attendance at all, and finally perhaps be postponed till we loose the substance in pursuit of the shadow. While they are agitated by these considerations there are not wanting insidious characters who tell them, it is neither the wish nor the intention of the public to settle your accounts; but to delay this business under one pretext or another till Peace wch. we are upon the eve of, and a seperation of the Army takes place when it is well known a generl settlement never can be effected and that individual loss, in this instance, becomes a public gain.

However derogatory these ideas are with the dignity, honor, and justice of government yet in a matter so interesting to the Army, and at the same time so easy to be effected by the Public, as that of liquidating the Accounts, is delayed without any apparent, or obvious necessity, they will have their place in a mind that is soured and irritated. Let me entreat you therefore my good Sir to push this matter to an issue, and if there are Delegates among you, who are really opposed to doing justice to the Army, scruple not to tell them, if matters should come to extremity, that they must be answerable for all the ineffable horrors which may be occasioned thereby. I am etc.

***To ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

Newburgh, March 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: When I wrote to you last we were in a state of tranquility, but after the arrival of a certain Gentleman, who shall be nameless at present, from Philadelphia, a Storm very suddenly arose with unfavourable prognostics; which tho' diverted for a moment, is not yet blown over, nor is it in my power to point to the issue.

The Papers which I send officially to Congress, will supercede the necessity of my remarking on the tendency of them. The notification and Address, both appeared at the same instant on the day preceeding the intended meeting. The first of these, I got hold of the same afternoon; the other, not till next Morning.

There is something very misterious, in this business. It appears, reports have been propagated in Philadelphia, that dangerous combinations were forming in the Army...²⁵

25. The omitted portion is the same as that found in Washington's letter to Joseph Jones, the same date as this letter (Mar. 12, 1783), *q. v.*

From this, and a variety of considerations, it is firmly believed by *some*, the scheme was not only planned, but also digested and matured in Philadelphia; but my opinion shall be suspended till I have better ground to found one on. The matter was managed with great Art; for as soon as the Minds of the Officers...²⁵ I was obliged therefore, in order to arrest, on the spot, the foot that stood wavering on a tremendous precipice, to prevent the Officers from being taken by surprize while the passions were all inflamed, and to rescue them from plunging themselves into a gulph of Civil horror from which there might be no receding, to issue the order of the 11th...²⁵

25. The omitted portion is the same as that found in Washington's letter to Joseph Jones, the same date as this letter (Mar. 12, 1783), *q. v.*

the postponing of which appears to be the most plausible, and almost only Article, of which designing men can make an improper use, by insinuating (which they really do) that it is done with design that Peace may take place, and prevent any adjustment of Accts. which say they would inevitably be the case if the War was to cease tomorrow. or supposing the best, you would have to dance attendance at public Officers at great distances perhaps, and equally great expences to obtain a settlement, which would be highly injurious, nay ruinous to you. this is their language.

Let me beseech you therefore, my good Sir, to urge this matter earnestly and without further delay. the Situation of these Gentleman I do verily believe is distressing beyond description. It is affirmed to me, that a large part of them have no other prospect before them than a Goal, if they are turned loose without a liquidation of Accts. and an assurance of that justice to which they are so worthily entitled. To prevail on the Delegates of those States through whose means these difficulties occur,

it may, in my opinion, with propriety be suggested to them, if any disastrous consequences should follow, by reason of their delinquency, that they must be answerable to God and their Country for the ineffable horrors which may be occasioned thereby. I am etc.

P.S. I have received your letter of the 5th. and have put that matter in train which was mentioned in it.²⁶

I am this instant informed, that a Second Address to the Officers, distinguished No. 2. is thrown into circulation. The Contents, evidently prove that the Author is in, or near Camp; and that the following words, erased in the second page of this Letter, ought not to have met with this treatment.

“By others, that it is the illegitimate offspring of a person in the Army.”²⁷

***To JOSEPH JONES**

Newburgh, March 18, 1783.

The storm which seemed to be gathering with unfavourable prognostics, when I wrote to you last, is dispersed; and we are again in a state of tranquility. But do not, My dear Sir, suffer this appearance of tranquility to relax your endeavors to bring the requests of the Army to an issue. believe me, the Officers are too much pressed by their present wants, and rendered too sore by the recollection of their past sufferings to be touched much longer upon the string of forbearance, in matters wherein they can see no cause for delay. Nor would I have further reliance placed on any influence of mine to dispel other Clouds if any should arise, from the causes of the last.

26. Hamilton had written (March 5): “The bearer Shattuck thinks he can point out the means of apprehending Wells and Knowlton, the two persons whom Your Excellency was authorised to have taken into custody. I have desired him to call upon you to disclose the plan.” Hamilton's letter is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

27. From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

By my official Letter to Congress, and the Papers inclosed in it, you will have a full view of my assurances to, and the expectations of the Army; and I perswade myself that the well wishers to both, and of their Country, will exert themselves to the utmost to irradicate the Seeds of distrust, and give every satisfaction that justice requires, and the means which Congress possess, will enable them to do.

In a former letter I observed to you, that a liquidation of Accts, in order that the Ballances might be ascertained, is the great object of the Army; and certainly nothing can be more reasonable. To have these Ballances discharged at this, or in any short time; however desirable, they know is impracticable, and do not expect it; altho', in the meantime, they must labour under the pressure of those sufferings; which is felt more sensibly by a comparison of circumstances.

The situation of these Gentlemen merit the attention of every thinking and grateful mind. As Officers, they have been *obliged* to dress, and appear in character, to effect which, they have been *obliged* to anticipate their pay, or participate their Estates. By the first, debts have been contracted. by the latter, their patrimony is injured. To disband Men therefore under these circumstances, before their Accts. are liquidated, and the Ballances ascertained, would be, to sett open the doors of the Goals, and then to shut them upon Seven Years faithful and painful Services. Under any circumstances which the nature of the case will admit,

they must be considerable Sufferers; because necessity will compell them to part with their certificates for whatever they will fetch; to avoid the evil I have mentioned above: and how much this will place them in the hands of unfeeling, avaricious speculators a recurrence to past experience will sufficiently prove.

It may be said by those who have no disposition to compensate the Services of the Army, that the Officers have too much penetration to place dependance (in any alternative) upon the strength of their own Arm; I will readily concede to these Gentlemen that no good could result from such an attempt; but I hope they will be equally candid in acknowledging, that much mischief may flow from it. and that nothing is too extravagant to expect from men, who conceive they are ungratefully,

and unjustly dealt by; especially too if they can suppose that characters are not wanting, to foment every passion which leads to discord, and that there are—but—time shall reveal the rest.

Let it suffice, that the very attempt, wd. imply a want of justice, and fix an indelible stain upon our national character; as the whole world, as well from the enemies publication (without any intention to serve us) as our own, must be strongly impressed with the sufferings of this army from hunger, cold and nakedness. in almost every stage of the War. Very sincerely etc.

***To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON**

Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: About the first of this month I wrote you a long letter. I touched upon the state of the Army; the situation of public Creditors, and wished to know from you as a friend, what causes had induced the Assembly of Virginia to withdraw their assent to the Impost Law; and how the Continental creditors without (adequate funds) were to come at, or obtain security for their money.

I little expected at the time of writing that letter, that we were on the eve of an important crisis to this Army; when the touch stone of discord was to be applied; and the virtue of its members to undergo the severest trial.

You have not been altogether unacquainted, I dare say, with the fears, the hopes, the apprehensions and the expectations of the Army relatively to the provision which is to be made for them hereafter. Altho' a firm reliance on the integrity of Congress and a belief that the Public would finally do justice to all its Servants, and give an indisputable Security for the payment of the half-pay of the Officers had kept them amidst a variety of sufferings tolerably quiet and contented for two or three years past; Yet the total want of pay, the little prospect of receiving any from the unpromising state of the public finances, and

the absolute aversion of the States to establish any Continental funds for the payment of the Debt due to the Army, did at the close of the last Campaign excite greater discontents and threaten more serious and alarming consequences than it is easy for me to describe or you to conceive.

Happily for us, the Officers of highest rank and greatest consideration interposed, and it was determined to Address Congress in an humble, pathetic and explicit manner.

While the Sovereign Power appeared perfectly well disposed to do justice, it was discovered the States would enable them to do nothing. And in this state of Affairs, and after sometime spent on the business in Philadelphia, a report was made by the Delegates of the Army giving a Detail of the proceedings: Before this could be fully communicated to the Troops, while the Minds of all were in a peculiar state of inquietude and irritation, an Anonymous Writer, who tho' he did not boldly step forth and give his name to the World, sent into circulation an Address to the Officers of the Army which in point of composition, in elegance and force of expression, has rarely been equalled in the English Language, and in which the dreadful alternative was proposed of relinquishing the Service in a body in case the War continued, or retaining their Arms in case of Peace, untill Congress should comply with all their demands. At the same time seizing the moment when the Minds were inflamed by the most pathetic representations, a General meeting of the Officers was summoned by another anonymous production.

It is impossible to say what would have been the consequence had the Author succeeded in his first plans. But measures having been taken to postpone the meeting so as to give time for cool reflection and counteraction, the good sense of the Officers has terminated this Affair in a manner, which reflects the greatest glory on themselves and demands the highest expressions of gratitude from their Country.

The Proceedings have this day been reported to Congress, and will probably be published for the satisfaction of the good people of these United States. In the mean time I thought it necessary to give you these particulars, principally with a design to communicate to you, without reserve, my opinion on this interesting subject. For notwithstanding the storm has now passed over,

notwithstanding the Officers have, in despite of their accumulated sufferings, given the most unequivocal and exalted proofs of Patriotism; Yet I believe, unless justice shall be done, and funds effectually provided for the payment of the Debt, the most deplorable and ruinous consequences may be apprehended. Justice, honor, gratitude, policy, every thing, is opposed to the conduct of driving men to despair of obtaining their just rights after serving Seven years a painful life in the Field. I say in the *Field* , because they have not during that period had any thing to shelter them from the inclemency of the Seasons but Tents, and such Houses as they could build for themselves.

Convinced of this, and actuated as I am, not

by private and Interested motives, but by a sense of duty, a love of justice, and all the feelings of gratitude towards a body of men who have merited infinitely well of their Country, I can never conceal, or suppress my Sentiments. I cannot cease to exert all the Abilities I am possessed of to shew the evil tendency of procrastinated justice; for I will not suppose it is intended ultimately to withhold it; Nor fail to urge the Establishment of such adequate and permanent funds as will enable Congress to secure the payment of the public Debt on such principles as will preserve the National faith, give satisfaction to the Army, and tranquillity to the Public. With great esteem etc.

P.S. The Author of Anonymous Address is yet behind the Curtain; and as conjecture may be grounded on error, I will not announce mine, as present.⁵³

***To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 12th. and for the enclosures. the early communication of such

53. See Washington's letter to John Armstrong, Feb. 23, 1797, *post*.

important occurrences rendered the favor doubly acceptable. Would to God the Articles for a general pacification were as well advanced as those between America and G Britain but I am not without fears that that event is at a greater distance than the Sanguine ones imagine.

The policy of G. Britain now, if I have formed a right judgment, is to sooth America as much as possible, in order to weaken the band and make her uneasy under the Alliance if the policy, or Situation of France with respect to the other Bellegerent powers renders it necessary to continue the War another Campaign. This, or some manœuvre, which may be performed with safety during the equipment of the Fleet at Cadiz must, undoubtedly, be the cause of the present procrastination of the Negotiations at Paris; what the final issue may be Heaven knows. Such an avidity appears among our People to make money, and so feeble the Rems of Government (where there is an attempt to use them) to restrain the illicit and pernicious intercourse of Trade with the enemy at New York that the fence between them and us is entirely broken down and nothing but an Army quite sufficient to form a close investiture of that place can repair it. five such Armies as I have would be incompetent, employed in any other way. The Boats which have been Commissioned to obstruct this trade, are instrumental in carrying it on, and have been caught in the Act as many other Trading parties also have been by the Guards and patrols I keep for this purpose, but it avails nothing. By

Hook or by Crook, they are certain of acquittal. In truth I am quite discouraged, and have scarce any thing left but lamentation for the want of Virtue and depravity of my Countrymen.

The insidious attempt which has been made to inflame the Army, and to Sow the Seeds of distrust between the Civil and Military powers; and the proceedings consequent thereupon; having been sent to Congress (where you will have an opportunity of seeing them) I shall add nothing on that head but a wish that the propriety of early decision may strike that Honble. Body as sensibly as I feel it.

Your packet for Govr. Clinton was forwarded in the moment of my receiving it. I have the Honor etc.

***To DANIEL PARKER**

Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Sir: The Silk which you expected from Boston for lining is arrivd, but White; Mr. Smith expects other; but this is uncertain. My Coat of which I am in great want, in the mean while stands.

I shall thank you therefore to bring me a *Buff* lining of *any kind* from Philadelphia, sufficient for a Coat and Vest-Coat.

If a pair of French Epauletts (gold) could be had, I would thank you for bringing me a pair; I do not want them of the largest and richest kind; because it is for a frock Coat they are intended; nor would I have them of the mean kind. Such as you will probably see upon Count de Dillon or any *Field* Officer in the French Service are of the kind I would prefer. I am etc.

***To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE**

Newburgh, March 19, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Money which was received in Feby. or March last Year for my Household Expences, is more than expended; and the Subsistence Notes in the hands of the D. Pay master will procure nothing from the Country people. Be so kind then, my good Sir; as to point me to the means with which these expences are to be borne.

For immediate and pressing calls I was obliged a day or two ago, to draw upon the Contingent fund in the hands of the Pay master for 200 dollars; whether this is the source to which I am to have recourse in future remains with you to decide. I am etc.

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Newburgh, March 23, 1783.

Sir: In a letter which I have lately received from the Marquis de la Fayette, he expresses a wish that my sentiments respecting his absence may be communicated to Congress. To comply with his desire, and not because I conceive the testimony of my approbation of it is wanting, I give your Excellency the trouble of this Letter.

Congress have had too many unequivocal proofs of the Zeal, the attachment to, and important exertions of this young nobleman in the American Cause, to entertain a doubt of the propriety of his present absence. Sure I am that his return will be as soon as he can make it subservient to the Interest of this Country. These being my Sentiments, I communicate them without reserve. I have the honor etc.⁵⁸

***To COMTE D'ESTAING**

Newburg, March 23, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency. I am sure will pardon me, when the momentary interruption I give you, is for the purpose of introducing to your Civilities Monsr. Gouvion, Colo. in the American

58. The letter was read in Congress on April 7 and referred to Richard Peters, Eliphalet Dyer, and Thomas Sim Lee.

Service, and an Officer of great merit, and of distinguished zeal, abilities and bravery.

He will repeat to you my former assurances of attachment, and convey to you my present wishes for your Success. He will tell you how happy it would make me to embrace you on American Ground, and with what Respect and consideration. I have the honor. etc.⁵⁹

59. On March 23 Washington wrote similar letters of introduction for Gouvion to Marquis de Bouillé and Baron de Vioménil, the drafts of which are in the *Washington Papers*.

***To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**

Hd. Qrs., Newburgh, March 23, 1783.

My dear Marqs.: I have to acknowledge the honor of your favors of the 14th and 24th. of October and 4th. of Decr; to thank you for the warm and affectionate expression of them; and to congratulate you and Madam La Fayette on the birth of a daughter. Virginia I am perswaded, will be pleased with the Compliment of the name; and I pray as a member of it she may live to be a blessing to her Parents.

It would seem that, none of my Letters (except one by Colonel Gemat) had reached you when you last

wrote. I do not know how to acct. for this. My last letter to you went by the Chevr. Chartellux which could not have arrived; the others were committed to the care either of the Chevr. de la Luzerne or our Secretary of Foreign Affairs at Philadelphia, to be forwarded by such conveyances as might offer.

I am fully perswaded My dear Marqs. of your Zeal in the American Cause. I am sure you adopted the plan you are now in the execution of, as the most likely, tho' a little circuitous, to serve it; and I shall express to Congress who I know have an exalted opinion of your zeal, abilities and faithful Services, my entire approbation of your conduct; and the purity of the motives which gave rise to it. Your pursuit after honor and glory will be accompanied by my warmest wishes, and you have my sincerest congratulations on your promotion,⁶⁰ and Command in the French Army.

As it is your wish, I have given Colo. Gouvion my consent to meet you at the rendezvous appointed him, and he sets out with all the alacrity of a friend to attend it. You must receive him as a precious loan because I esteem and value him and because it is to you only I would part with him. I should be happy, if I could speak decidedly upon any plan of Operation on the American theatre in which the Naval and Land forces of His Most Christian Majesty could be combined; but such is the state of our finances, such the backwardness of the States to Establish funds and such the distress of the

Army for want of them, that I dare give no pointed assurances of effectual cooperation lest I should, unintentionally, be

60. The brevet rank of maréchal de camp.

guilty of deception, especially as my estimates and sentiments respectg. the ensuing Campaign are now pending before Congress for decision. Last year, while I had the prospect of a vigorous campaign before me (founded on the hope of Succours from your Court) I took a comprehensive view of the Enemies Situation and our own; arranged the whole under different heads, and digested plans of attack applicable to each; this I have put into the hands of Colo. Gouvion to Copy for you; and with the alterations occasioned by the change of circumstances, and such other information as you will receive from this Letter and from him will enable you to judge as fully as I can do (in my present state of incertitude) which can be attempted with such a force as you can bring at either of the places mentioned therein.

No requisitions by Congress, have yet been made of the States for Men; whether this proceeds from the present state of the public funds and little prospect of bettering them, or the hope of Peace, or partly from both, does not lye with me to decide; but so the fact is; so far indeed were they from requiring men to recruit the Battalions of last year that several of them have been reduced, and the Non-Commissioned and privates incorporated in the respective State lines. This however has not otherwise reduced our efficient force than by the diminution of Commissioned Offices; but all Corps that are not fed with Recruits must dwindle, from the deaths, desertions, and discharges incident to them; the last of which you well know, operates more powerfully in our Army

than most others. Our present force, tho small in number is excellent in composition; and may be depended upon as far as the first are competent. About June the *total of this Army* , exclusive of *Commissioned* Officers may be computed at 9000 and by October it will have decreased near 1000 Men by the discharge of so many whose term of Service will have expired.

I am impressed with a belief that *no* Militia could be drawn out *previous* to the arrival of a French fleet, and Land force on the Coast. I am not *sanguine* that *many* could be had afterwards; but certain

it is, there would be great difficulty in subsisting and providing for them, if it should be found necessary to call for their aid; hence it appears, that little or no dependence is to be placed on any other Troops than the Continentals of this Army. These would require very little previous Notice for an Operation against New York, which is the only Post of importance the enemy have within the United States; and indeed the only one against which they could move for want of transportation, or the means to obtain it.

Penobscot is a secondary object; unassailable but by means of a Naval superiority, with wch. the place might soon be carried without the aid of American Troops; to call for which would spread the alarm and waste time for an unnecessary purpose.

Motives, My dear Marqs, of friendship and candor have given birth to the freedom of this communication,

on my part; good sense and prudence will point it to proper objects, on yours; and on your honor and discretion I can firmly rely.

It only remains for me to add, for your further information, that since May last (when my thoughts on the plan of Campaign for 1782 were digested as they are now sent to you) Charles Town and Savanna having been evacuated; and Troops (Recruits principally) having arrived from Europe; the Enemies Posts have been strengthened. New York agreeably to the Estimates of General Greene and Major Burnett which I inclose by 3000 men; Hallifax and Canada from European and other Accts; by the like number, and Penobscot by 3 or 400 more; these being the only changes which have happened since my statement of the Enemys force in May last, you will be able to bring the whole into one view and determine accordingly. It is reported that a number (some say seven) British Regiments are about to Embark for the West Indies; by other accts. the whole are said to be going thither but there is not I believe, any orders for either yet come to hand; in this memr. everything with them is suspended.

Your polite and friendly offer to my Nephew, claims my grateful acknowledgments; I wish he was in a condition to avail himself of it. He has been in a declining state of health near 12 Months; but was something better the last time I heard from him.

McHenry has left the Military and embraced

a Civil walk of life; by which act he has disqualified himself from answering your purposes.

The Vessel you gave us room to expect, is not arrived; but Gouvion will go to Philadelphia and seek a passage from thence. He can tell you more forcibly than I can express it how much we all love and wish to embrace you; when, how, or where this will happen you best can tell. for myself particularly, I hope it is unnecessary to repeat to you, that whether during the continuance of the War, or after the olive branch shall have extended itself over this Land (for which I most devoutly pray) I shall be happy to see you on Columbias shore. The Inhabitants of my humble Cottage will salute you with the richest marks of grateful friendship wch. to a mind susceptible as yours is will be a greater feast than the luxuries of the East; the Elegancies of Europe, or the ceremonies of a Court can afford. Adieu, believe me always etc.

PS. Under cover of this Letter, you will receive a duplicate of the one written to you by the Chevr. Chattellux, and a Copy of my letter to Congress approving your conduct.

***To ARTHUR LEE**

Newburgh, March 29, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been honoured with your favor of

the 13th. and thank you for the information; your Corrispondent at Paris had good ground for his opinion, and we have abundant reason to be pleased at the event, which he predicted the near approach of. I heartily congratulate you on the conclusion of the War, and hope the Wisdom of the States will point to that line of policy which will make them a great, a happy People; to accomplish

this, local politics, and unreasonable jealousies should yield to such a constitution as will embrace the whole and make our Union respectable, lasting, without it, I think we have spent our time, spilt our blood, and wasted our treasure to very little purpose.

The Picaroons⁷⁷ in Chesapeake and the Waters of it, have now met their quietus; but previously to the News of Peace, a representation of their conduct had gone into New York, and orders, I believe, were sent for the recall of them.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in Complimts. to you and I have the honor etc.

To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Head Quarters, March 29, 1783.

My dear Sir: Your obliging Letter of the 24 was delivered

77. Lee calls them "Refugees" in his letter of March 13, which is in the *Washington Papers*.

me the day before Yesterday and accompanied the Account of a General Peace having been concluded in Europe on the 20 of January last. Most sincerely do I accept your Congratulations on this happy Event which has already diffused a General Joy thro' every Class of People and to none more than to the Army. It will now be our own faults if we do not enjoy that happiness which we have flattered ourselves this Event would bring; to see, such measures taken as will ensure this, is all that remains for me to wish; I shall then enjoy in the bosom of my family, a felicity that will amply repay every care.

[In a Letter I received by the Cutter from the Marqs. De la Fayette dated Cadiz Feby. 5th. is this passage.

Independent of my public letter to Mr. Livingston, there is a private one which he will also communicate, amongst the many favors which I have received, I would take it as a most flattering circumstance in my life to be sent to England with the ratification of the American Treaty; you

know it is but an honorary Commission, that would require the attendance of a few Weeks, and if any Sedentary Minister is sent, I should have the pleasure of introducing him; this, my dear General is entirely confidential.

From hence, I suppose it is necessary for Congress to ratifie the treaty of Peace entered into by their Commissioners at Paris to give it the form and solemnity which is essential to such a work, and that the Marqs. wishes for the honor of putting the last hand to this business by being the bearer of the

Ratification. How far it is consistent with our National honor, how far motives of policy make for or agst. sending a foreigner with it; or how far such a measure might disappoint the pectations of others, I pretend not to determine but if there is no impropriety, or injustice in it, I should hope that Congress would feel a pleasure in gratifying the wishes of a Man who has been such a Zealous labourer in the cause of this Country. Whether the above paragraph was only meant to bring me acquainted with what he had done, or that I might second his views, I know not, therefore, notwithstanding the injunction I have given these Sentiments.]

Your Letters for Governor Clinton were forwarded by Express immediately on the rect. of them. I am &c.⁷⁸

78. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

(Private)

Newburgh, March 30, 1783.

Dear Sir: I was upon the point of closing the Packet which affords a cover to this Letter when the Baron de Steuben arrived and put your obliging favor of the 17th. Instt. into my hands. I read it with great pleasure and gratitude, and beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken

to communicate the several matters therein contained many parts of which 'till then were altogether New to me.⁸⁴

Your Excellency will very highly honor and oblige me by a continuation of the friendly and confidential intercourse you have begun and you may rest assured that every part there of which you mark *private* shall remain inviolably secret.

As the bearer (in the Clothing department) is waiting, I have not time to enlarge. I could not suffer him however to depart without this acknowledgment of your letter, and testimony, of my respect; with Mrs. Washington's Compliments united with mine to Mrs., Miss Boudinot and yourself I have the honor etc.

84. Boudinot's letter of March 17, which is 11 pages long, is in the Washington Paper.

***To ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

Newburgh, March 31, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your favors of the 17th. and 24th. Ulto. I rejoice most exceedingly that there is an end to our Warfare, and that such a field is opening to our view as will, with wisdom to direct the cultivation of it, make us a great, a respectable, and happy People; but it must be improved by other means than State politics, and unreasonable jealousies and prejudices; or (it requires not the second sight to see that) we shall be instruments in the hands of our Enemies, and those European powers who may be jealous of our greatness in Union to dissolve the confederation; but to attain this, altho' the way seems extremely plain, is not so easy.

My wish to see the Union of these States established upon liberal and permanent principles, and inclination to contribute my mite in pointing out the defects of the present Constitution, are equally great. All my private letters have teemed with these Sentiments, and whenever this topic has been the subject of conversation, I have endeavoured to diffuse and enforce them; but how far any further essay by me might be productive of the wished for end, or appear to arrogate more than belongs to

me, depends so much upon popular opinions, and the timper and dispositions of People, that it is not easy to decide. I shall be obliged to you

however for the thoughts which you have promised me on this Subject, and as soon as you can make it convenient.

No Man in the United States is, or can be more deeply impressed with the necessity of a reform in our present Confederation than myself. No Man perhaps has felt the bad effects of it more sensibly; for the defects thereof, and want of Powers in Congress, may justly be ascribed the prolongation of the War, and consequently the expenses occasioned by it. More than half the perplexities I have experienced in the course of my command, and almost the whole of the difficulties and distress of the Army, have their origin here; but still the prejudices of some, the designs of others, and the mere Machinery of the Majority, makes address and management necessary to give weight to opinions which are to Combat the doctrines of those different classes of Men, in the field of Politics.

I would have been more full on this subject but the bearer (in the Clothing department) is waiting. I wish you may understand what I have written. I am etc.

P.S. The inclosed extract of a Letter to Mr Livingston, I give you in confidence; I submit it to your consideration, fully perswaded that you do not want inclination to gratify the Marquis's Wishes as far as is consistent with our National honor.⁹²

92. The original is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library, of Congress. The extract, which accompanies this letter, is that portion of Washington's letter to Robert R. Livingston, Mar. 29, 1782, which is inclosed in brackets, *q.v.*

***To ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

Newburgh, April 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: The same Post which gave me your two letters of the 25th of March, handed me one from Colo. Bland on the same point. Observing that both have been written at the desire of a Committee, of which you are both Members, I have made a very full reply to their subject in my letter which is addressed to Colo. Bland; and Supposing it unnecessary to enter into a complete detail to both, I must beg leave to refer you to Colo. Bland's (a sight of which I have desired him to give you) for a full explanation of my ideas and sentiments.

I read your private letter of the 25th.⁷ with pain, and contemplated the picture it had drawn with astonishment and horror; but I will yet hope for the best. The idea of redress by force, is too chimerical to have had a place in the imagination of any serious Mind in this Army; but there is no telling what unhappy disturbances might result from distress, and distrust of justice. and as the fears and jealousies of this Army are all alive, I hope no resolution will be come to for disbanding or seperating the Lines till the accts. are liquidated. you may rely upon it, Sir, that unhappy consequences would follow the attempt. The suspicions of the Officers are afloat, notwithstanding the resolutions which have passed on both sides; any act therefore which can be construed

7. Hamilton's letter of March 25 has been removed from the *Washington Papers* by John C. Hamilton and is now in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. In it Hamilton wrote: "The army by their resolutions express an expectation that Congress will not disband them previous to a settlement of accounts and the establishment of funds. Congress may resolve upon the first, but the general opinion is that they cannot constitutionally declare the second. They have no right by the Confederation to *demand* funds, they can only recommend; and to determine the army shall continue in service 'till the states grant them, would be to determine that the whole present army, shall be a standing army during peace unless the states comply with the requisitions for funds. This it is supposed would excite the alarms and jealousies of the states and increase rather than lessen the opposition to the funding scheme." Washington's letter of April 4 is in the *Hamilton Papers*.

into an attempt to separate them before the Accts. are settled will convey the most unfavourable ideas of the rectitude of Congress; whether well or ill founded matters not, the consequences will be the same.

I will now, in strict confidence mention a matter which may be useful for you to be informed of, It is that some Men (and leading ones too) in this Army, are beginning to entertain suspicions that Congress, or some Members of it, regardless of the past suiterings and present distresses, maugre the justice which is due to them, and the returns which a grateful people should make to Men who certainly have contributed more than any other class to the establishment of Independency, are to be made use of as mere Puppets to establish Continental funds; and that rather than not succeed in this measure, or weaken their ground, they would make a sacrifice of the Army and all its interests. I have two reasons for mentioning this matter to you: the one is, that the Army (considering the irritable state it is in, its sufferings and composition) is a dangerous instrument to play with. the other, that every possible means consistent with their own views (which certainly are moderate) should be essayed to get it disbanded without delay. I might add a third: it is that the Financier is suspected to be at the bottom of this Scheme. If sentiments of this sort should become general, their operation would be opposed to this plan; at the same time that it will encrease the present discontents. upon the whole, disband the Army as soon as possible, but consult the wishes of it; which really are moderate, in the mode, and perfectly compatible with the honor, dignity, and justice which is due from the Country. I am &c.

To THEODORICK BLAND

Head Quarters, April 4, 1783.

Sir: The Subject of your private Letter,³ is so important and involves so many Considerations, that I could not hazard my own Opinion *only* for a Reply. I have therefore communicated its Contents to some of the most intelligent, well informed, and confidential Officers, whose Judgment I have consulted, and endeavoured to collect from them, what is the General Sense and Expectation of the

[Army] at large, respectg the points you mention. And as this is meant to be equally private and Confidential as yours, I shall communicate my Sentiments to you without Reserve, and with the most intire Freedom.

The Idea of the Officers, in keepg the Army together until Settlement of their Acco. is effected, and *Funds established* for their Security, is perhaps not so extensive, as the Words of their Resolution seem to intimate. When that Idea was first expressed, our prospects of Peace were distant and it was Supposed that Settlement and Funds might both be effected, before a Dissolution of the Army wod. probably take place; they wished therefore to have both [done] at once.

3. Bland's letter, undated, but indorsed by Washington: "Supposed 25th March 83," is in the *Washington Papers* under that date.

But since the Expectation of Peace is bro't so near, however desirable it would be to the Officers to have their Ballances secured to them upon sufficient Funds, as well as their Settlement ascertained; yet it is not in Idea, that the Army should be held together, for the sole Purpose of enforcing either; nor do they suppose, that, by such Means, they could operate on the *Fears* of the civil power, or of the people at large; the impracticability as well as ill policy of such a Mode of Conduct is easily discoverable by every sensible Intelligent Officer. The Tho't is reprobated as ridiculous and inadmissible.

Tho these are their Ideas on the particular Point you have mentioned, yet they have their Expectations; and they are of a very serious Nature and will require all the Attention and consideration of Congress to gratify them. These I will endeavour to explain, with freedom and Candor.

In the first place, I fix it as an *indipensible* Measure, that previous to the Disbandg the Army, all their Accounts, should be compleatly liquidated and settled; and that every person shall be ascertained of the Ballance due to him. And it is *equally essential* , in my Opinion, that this Settlement should be effected with the Army in its collected Body, without any dispersion of the different Lines to their respective States; for in this [way] the Accounts will be drawn into [one

view], properly digested upon one general System, and compared with a variety of Circumstances, which will require References upon a much easier plan than to be diffused over all the States: the Settlements will be effected with greater Ease, in less Time, and with much more

Oeconomy in this, than in a scattered Situation. At the same Time, Jealousies will be removed, the Minds of the Army will be impressed with greater Ease and Quiet, and they better prepared, with good Opinions and proper Dispositions to fall back into the great Mass of Citizens.⁴

But after Settlement is formed, there remains another Circumstance of more importance still, and without which it will be of little Consequence to have the Sums due them ascertained; that is the Payment of some part of the Ballance. The Distresses of Officers and Soldiers are now driven to the extreme and without this provision will not be lessened by the prospect of Dissolution. It is therefore universally expected that three Months pay at least, must be given them before they are disbanded, this Sum it is confidently imagined may be procured, and is absolutely indispensable. They are the rather confirmed in a Belief of the practicability of obtaining it, as the pay of the Army, has formed great part of the Sum in the Estimates which have been Made for the Expences of the War, and altho this has been obliged to give Way to more necessary Claims, yet when those Demands cease, as many will upon the Disbanding the Army, the Pay will then come into View, and have its equal [claim] to Notice. They will not however be unreasonable in this Expectation. If the whole cannot be obtained before they are dispersed, the Receipt of One Month in Hand, with an absolute Assurance of having the other two Months in a short Time, will be satisfactory; should Mr Morris not be able to assure them the two last Months from the Treasury, it is suggested that it may be obtained in the States, by Drafts from [him] upon their

4. At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "In giving this Opinion, I beg that no Idea may be admitted, that the Army would wish to affect the Fears of the Civil Power or of the People at large, by a Desire to remain in an Entire Body to enforce a Settlement, or to demand by' violence either payment or Security for the payment of their Ballances; nothing is further from the Thort

of every sensible, intelligent Officer who at once perceives that such a Measure would be equally unavailing and impracticable; indeed the very Idea is ridiculous.”

several Continental Receivers, to be collected by the Individual Officers and Soldiers out of the last Years Arrears due from the several States Apportionments, and for which Taxes have long since been Assessed by the Legislatures. This Mode, tho troublesome to the Officer, and perhaps inconvenient for the financier; yet from the Necessity of Circumstances maybe adopted, and might be a Means of collectg more Taxes from the people than would in any other Way be done. This is only hinted as an Expedient; the Financier will take his own Measures. But, I repeat it, as an indispensable point, that this Sum at least, must by some Means be procured. without this provision, it will be absolutely impossible for many to get from Camp, or to return to their friends, and driven to such necessities, it is impossible to foresee what may be the Consequences of their not obtaining it; but the worst is to be apprehended. A Credit, built by their Funds, and such others as have been good eno' to supply their Wants upon the Expectation of being refunded at the Close of the War, out of the large Sums, which by their Toils in the course of many Years hard Service, have become due to them from the public, has supported the greatest Number of them to the present Time, and that Debt now remains upon them. But to be disbanded at last, without this little pittance [(which is necessary to quit Qrs.)] like a Sett of Beggars, Needy, distressed and without Prospect, will not only blast the Expectations of their Creditors, and expose the Officers to the utmost Indignity and the Worst of Consequences, but will drive every Man of Honor and Sensibility to the extremest Horrors of Despair. On the other Hand to give them this

Sum, however Small in Comparison of their Dues, yet, by fullfilling their Expectations, will sweeten their Tempers, cheer their hopes of the future, enable them to subsist themselves 'till they can cast about for some future Means of Business; it will gratify their [pressing] Creditors, and will throw the Officer back with Ease and Confidence into the Bosom of this Country, and enable him to mix with Cordiality, and Affection among the Mass of usefull, happy and contented Citizens, an Object of the most desirable importance.

I cannot, at this point of Distance, know the Arrangements of the financier, what have been his Anticipations, or what his prospects; but the necessity of [fulfilling] this Expectation of the Army affects me so exceeding forcibly, that I cannot help dwelling upon it; nor is there in my present apprehension a point of greater Consequence, or that requires more serious attention. Under this Impression I have thot, is a spirited, pointed, and well adapted Address was framed by Congress and sent to the States on this Occasion, that Gratitude, Justice, Honor, national Pride, and every consideration would operate upon them to strain every Nerve, and exert every Endeavour to throw into the public Treasury, a Sum equal to this Requisition. It cannot be denied, especially when they reflect, how small the Expectation is, compared with the large Sum of Arrears which is due; and 'tho I know that Distinctions are commonly odious, and are looked upon with a jealous and envious Eye, yet it is impossible, that in this Case, it can have this Operation; for whatever the feelings of Individuals at large may be in contemplating

on their own Demands, yet upon a candid Comparison, every Man, even the most interested, will be forced to yield to the superior Merit and Sufferings of the Soldier, who for a Course of Years, has contributed his Services in the field, not only at the Expence of his Fortune and former Employment, but at the Risque of Ease, domestic happiness, Comfort and even Life. And all these Considerations, how must he be struck with the Mediocrity of his Demand, when instead of the Pay due him for four, five, perhaps Six Years hard earned Toil and Distress, he is content for the present with receiving three Months only, and is willing to risque the Remainder upon the same Basis of Security, with the general Mass of other public Creditors.

Another Expectation seems to have possessed the Minds of the Officers, That, as the Objects abovementioned are not the only ones which must occupy the Attention of Congress, in Connexion with the Army, it may probably be thort adviseable, that Congress should send to the Army, a respectable, well chosen, and well instructed Committee, of their own Body; with liberal Powers, to confer with the Army, to know their Sentiments, their Expectations, their Distresses, their Necessities, and the Impossibility of their falling back from the Soldier to Citizenship without some gratification to their most reasonable Demands [this would be considered as a complimt.];

And to add still greater Satisfaction and Advantage, it is thort very adviseable, that the Secretary at War, and the Financier, should be of this Delegation. Previous to a Dissolution of the Army, many arrangements, will doubtless be thort necessary in both those Department, to procure a

happy and honorable Close to the War, and to introduce Peace, with a prospect of National Glory, Stability and Benefit. It is not for me to dictate, but I should suppose that some Peace Establishment will be necessary; some posts will be kept up and garrisoned; Arsenals for the Deposite of Ordnance and Military Stores will be determined on, and the Stores collected and deposited. Arrangements will be necessary for the Discharge of the Army, at what periods and under what Circumstances. The Terms of the Soldiers Service are on different Grounds; those for the War will suppose, [and they have a right to do so] their periods of Service to expire at the Close of the War, and Proclamation of Peace; what period shall be fixed for these. The Levy Men [may be] retained [while the British force remain in our Country if it shall be judged advisable]. If I am not consulted in these Matters, it will be necessary for me to have an early knowledge of the Intentions of Congress [on these and many other points. But I can think of no mode so effectual as the one suggested of a Comee. accompanied by the Ft. and Sy. at W.⁵ Plans] which to us appear feasible and practicable, [may be attended with insurmountable difficulties. On the other hand measures may be adopted at Philadelphia which cannot be carried into execution: but here in the manner proposed something might be hit upon which would] accommodate itself to the Ideas of both, with greater Ease and Satisfaction, than may now be expected, and which could not be effected by writing Quires of paper, and spendg a Length of Time.

Upon the whole, you will be able to Collect

5. Financier and Secretary at War.

from the foregoing Sentiments, what are the Expectations of the Army, that they will involve; compleat Settlement, and partial payment, *previous* to any Dispersion (this they suppose may be done within the Time that they must necessarily remain together). Upon the fulfillment of these

two, they will readily retire, in full Assurance that ample Security at the earliest period, and on the best Ground it can be had will be obtained for the remainder of their Ballances.

If the Idea of a Committee to Visit the Army should not be adopted, and you find it necessary to pass any further Resolutions, you will easily collect from the foregoing Sentiments, what will be satisfactory, without my troubling you any further.

[I pray you to communicate the Contents of this Letter to Colo. Hamilton, from whom I received a request similar to yours.] I have the honor etc.⁶

***To THEODORICK BLAND**

Newburgh, April 4, 1783.

Dear Sir; On Sunday last the Baron de Steuben handed me your obliging favor of the 22d. Ulto. permit me to offer you my unfeigned thanks for the clear and candid opinions which you have given me of European politics. your reasonings upon the conduct of the different Powers at War would have appeared conclusive had not

6. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

On April 7, before this letter had reached Bland, Congress appointed a committee consisting of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison Samuel Osgood, James Wilson, and Oliver Ellsworth, in consider the arrangements proper to be taken in case of a general peace. On May 6 Samuel Holton was added to this committee in place of Osgood. On April 9 Hamilton informed Washington of such a committee, and asked for his “sentiments at large on such institutions of every kind, for the interior defence of these states as may be best adapted to their circumstances and conciliate security with oeconomy and with the principles o[our government. In this they will be glad you will take as great latitude as you may think necessary.” (See Washington's letter to Alexander Hamilton. Apr. 16, 1783, *post.*)

the happy event which has been since announced to us, and on which I most sincerely congratulate you, proved how well they were founded. Peace has given rest to speculative opinions respecting the time, and terms of it. the first has come as soon as we could well have expected under the disadvantages we have labd. and the latter, is abundantly satisfactory. It is now the bounden duty of every one, to make the blessing thereof as diffusive as possible.

Nothing would so effectually bring this to pass as the removal of those local prejudices which intrude upon and embarrass that great line of policy which alone can make us a free, happy, and powerful people. Unless our Union can be fixed upon such a basis as to accomplish these ends certain I am we have toiled, bled and spent our treasure to very little purpose.

We have now a National character to establish; and it is of the utmost importance to stamp favourable impressions upon it; let justice then be one of its characteristics, and gratitude another. Public Creditors of every denomination will be comprehended in the first. the Army in a particular manner will have a claim to the latter; to say that no distinction can be made between the claims of public Creditors, is to declare that there is no difference in circumstances or, that the Services of all Men are equally alike. This Army, is of near 8 years standing; 6 of which they have spent in the field, without any other shelter from the inclemency of the Seasons than Tents, or such Houses as they could build for themselves, without expence to the public. they have encountered hunger, cold and Nakedness. they have fought many

Battles, and bled freely. they have lived without pay, and in consequence of it, Officers as well as Men have been obliged to subsist upon their Rations: they have often, very often been reduced to the necessity of eating Salt Porke or Beef not for a day or a week only but months together without Vegetables of any kind or money to buy them; or a cloth to wipe on. Many of them, to do better and to dress as Officers, have contracted heavy Debts, or spent their Patrimonies; the first see the doors of Goals opening to receive them whilst those of the latter are shut against them. Is there no discrimination then, no extra exertion to be made in favor of men under these. Circumstances in the hour of their Military dissolution? Or, if no worse comes of it, are they to be turned a drift soured and discontented, complaining of the ingratitude of their Country, and under the irritation

of these passions to become fit subjects for unfavourable impressions and unhappy dissensions? for permit me to add, tho' every Man in the Army feels the distress of his situatn it is not every one that reasons to the cause of it.

I would not, from the observatns. here made, be understood to mean that Congress should (because I know they cannot, nor does the Army expect it) pay the full arrearages due to them till Continental or State funds are established for the purpose; they would, from what I can learn, go home contented; nay *thankful* , to receive what I have mentioned in a more public Letter of this date, and in the manner there expressed. and surely this may be effected with proper exertions; or what possibility was there of keeping the Army together if the war had continued when the victualling, clothing and other exps were to have [*sic*]⁸ Another thing Sir,

8. The Varick Transcripts has, at this point: “made a Part?”

(as I mean to be frank and free in my communications on this subject) I will not conceal from you, it is dissimilarities in the payments of Men in Civil and Military life. the first receive every thing, the other get nothing, but bare subsistence. They ask what this is owing to? and reasons have been assigned, which say they, amount to this: that Men in Civil life have stronger passions and better pretensions to indulge them or less virtue and regd. for their Country than us; otherwise, as we are all contending for the same prize and equally interested in the attainment of it, why is not the burthen borne equally.

These, and other comparisons, which are unnecessary to enumerate, give a keener edge to their feelings, and contribute not a little to sour their tempers.

As it is the first wish of my Soul to see the war happily and speedily terminated, and those who are now in Arms return to Citizenship with good dispositions, I think it a duty which I owe to candor and to friendship to point you to such things, as will have a tendency to harmony and to bring them to pass. With great esteem etc.

***To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**

Head Qrs., Newburgh, April 5, 1783.

My dear Marqs.: It is easier for you to conceive than for me

to express the sensibility of my Heart at the communications in your letter of the 5th. of Feby. from Cadiz. It is to these communications we are indebted for the only acct. yet recd of a general Pacification. My mind upon the receipt of this news was instantly assailed by a thousand ideas, all of them contending for pre-eminence, but believe me my dear friend none could supplant, or ever will eradicate that gratitude, which has arisen from a lively sense of the conduct of your Nation: from my obligations to many illustrious characters of it, among whom (I do not mean to flatter, when) I place you at the head of them; And from my admiration of the Virtues of your August Sovereign; who at the same time that he stands confessed the Father of his own people, and defender of American rights has given the most exalted example of moderation in treating with his Enemies.

We now stand an Independent People, and have yet to learn political Tactics. We are placed among the Nations of the Earth, and have a character to establish; but how we shall acquit ourselves time must discover; the probability, at least I fear it is, that local, or state Politics will interfere too much with that more liberal and extensive plan of government which wisdom and foresight, freed from the mist of prejudice, would dictate; and that we shall be guilty of many blunders in treading this boundless theatre before we shall have arrived at any perfection in this Art. In a word that the experience which is purchased at the price of difficulties and distress, will alone convince us that the honor, power, and true Interest of this Country must be measured by a Continental

scale; and that every departure therefrom weakens the Union, and may ultimately break the band, which holds us together. To avert these evils, to form a Constitution that will give consistency, stability and dignity to the Union; and sufficient powers to the great Council of the Nation for general purposes is a duty which is incumbent upon every Man who wishes well to his Country, and

will meet with my aid as far as it can be rendered in the private walks of life; for hence forward my Mind shall be unbent; and I will endeavor to glide down the stream of life 'till I come to that abyss, from whence no traveller is permitted to return.

The Armament wch. was preparing at Cadiz, and in which you were to have acted a distinguished part would have carried such conviction with it, that it is not to be wondered at, that Great Britain should have been impressed with the force of such reasoning. To this cause I am perswaded, the Peace is to be ascribed. Your going to Madrid from thence, instead of coming immediately to this Country, is another instance My Dear Marquis of your Zeal for the American Cause;⁹ and lays a fresh claim to the gratitude of her Sons, who will, at all times, receive you with open Arms; but as no Official dispatches are yet received, either at Phila. or New York of the completion of the treaty, nor any measures taken for the reduction of the Army, my detention therewith is quite uncertain; to say then (at this time) where I may be at the epoch for your intended visit to this Continent is too vague even for conjecture; but nothing can be more true than that the pleasure with which I

9. Through Lafayette's efforts, William Carmichael, who had been left in Madrid by John Jay, when he returned to the United States in 1782, as chargé d'affaires, was publicly received as such by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs in February, 1783.

shall receive you, will be equal to your wishes. I shall be better able to determine *then* than now, on the practicability of accompanying you to France. A Country to which I shall ever feel a Warm Affection; and if I do not pay it that tribute of respect which is to be derived from a visit it may be ascribed with more justice to any other cause, than a want of inclination; or the pleasure of going there under the auspices of your friendship.

I have already observed, that the determinations of Congress, if they have come to any, respecting the Army, is yet unknown to me; but as you wish to be informed of *every thing* that concerns it, I do, for your satisfaction, transmit authentic documents of some very interesting occurrences, which have happened within the last Six Months. but I ought first to have premised, that from accumulated sufferings, and little or no prospect of relief, the discontents of the Officers last Fall put on the

threatning appearance of a total resignation, till the business was diverted into the channel which produced the Address and Petition to Congress which stands first on the file herewith inclosed. I shall make no comment on these proceedings; to one as well acquainted with the sufferings of the American Army as you are, it is unnecessary, it will be sufficient to observe, that the more Virtue and forbearance of it is tried, the more resplendent it appears. My hopes, that the military exit of this valuable class of the community will exhibit such a proof of Amor patria: as will do them honor in the page of history.

These papers with my last letter (which was

intended to go by Colo. Gouvion, containing extensive details of Military Plans) will convey to you every information I can give, in the present uncertainty, worthy of attention. If you should get sleepy, and tired of reading them, recollect, for my exculpation, that it is in compliance with your request, I have run into such prolixity.

I made a proper use of the confidential part of your Letter of the 5th. of Feby.

The scheme, my dear Marqs. which you propose as a precedent, to encourage the emancipation of the black people of this Country from that state of Bondage in wch. they are held, is a striking evidence of the benevolence of your Heart. I shall be happy to join you in so laudable a work; but will defer going into a detail of the business, 'till I have the pleasure of seeing you.¹⁰

Lord Stirling is no more; he died at Albany in Jany. last, very much regretted. Colo. Barber was snatched from us about the same time; in a way equally unexpected, sudden and distressing; leaving many friends to bemoan his fate.

Tilghman is on the point of Matrimony with a namesake and Couzin; Sister to Mrs. Carroll of Baltimore.¹¹ It only remains for me now, My dear Marqs., to make a tender of my respectful Compliments in which Mrs. Washington unites, to Madame La Fayette; and to wish you, her, and your little offspring, all the happiness this life can afford. I will extend my Compliments to the

Gentlemen, with whom I have the honor of an Acquaintance, in your circle. I need not add how happy I shall be to see you in America, and

10. Lafayette had written (Feb. 5, 1783): "Let us unite in purchasing a small estate, where we may try the experiment to free the negroes, and use them only as tenants. Such an example as yours might render it a general practice; and if we succeed in America, I will cheerfully devote a part of my time to reader the method fashionable in the West Indies. If it be a wild scheme, I had rather be mad this way, than to be thought wise in the other task." Lafayette's letter is printed in Sparks's *Letters to Washington*, vol. 3. P. 547. The original is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

11. Ann Maria Tilghman, daughter of Matthew Tilghman.

more particularly at Mount Vernon; or with what truth and warmth of Affection I am etc.

***To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN**

Newburgh, April 14, 1783.

Sir: Yesterday I was honored with your favor of the 10th. Instr. and beg leave to assure you that the expression of attachment to the people and Government of this Country and to myself in particular, has filled me with pleasure and gratitude.

Congress have made no communication to me of their intention respecting a Peace Establishment, nor do I conceive, under the present state of our Finances they would incline to retain a Regiment of Cavalry in pay. The expence, without an adequate object would be too great for the œconomy we must observe. the offer of your Services must however be considered as an honourable testimonial of the sincerity of your profession but as it is your request to me to make no mention of the application you may rest assured of my silence. With great esteem etc.

P.S. Since writing the above, I have been informed that a Comtee. of Congress is appointed to take the objects mentioned in your letter into consideration but I am ignorant of what they have adopted, or may adopt in fixing a Plan for Peace.

***To ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

Newburgh, April 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: My last letter to you was written in a hurry, when I was fatigued by the more public, yet confidential letter which (with several others) accompanied it; possibly, I did not on that occasion express myself (in what I intended as a hint) with so much perspicuity as I ought; possibly too, what I then dropped, might have conveyed more than I intended; for I do not, at this time, recollect the force of my expression.

My meaning however, was only to inform, that there were different sentiments in the Army as well as in Congress, respecting Continental and State Funds; some wishing to be thrown upon their respective States rather than the Continent at large, for payment; and that, if an idea should prevail generally that Congress, or part of its Members, or Ministers, bent upon the latter, should *delay* doing them justice, or *hazard* it in pursuit of their favourite object; it might create such divisions in the Army as would weaken, rather than strengthen the hands

of those who were disposed to support Continental measures, and might *tend* to defeat the end they themselves had in view by endeavoring to involve the Army.

For these reasons I said, or meant to say, the Army was a dangerous Engine to Work with, as it might be made to cut both ways; and, considering the Sufferings of it, would, more than probably, throw its weight into that Scale which seemed most likely to preponderate towards its immediate relief, without looking forward (under the pressure of present want) to future consequences with the eyes of Politicians. In this light also I meant to apply my observation to Mr. Morris, to whom, or

rather to Mr. G— M—⁵⁶ is ascribed, in a great degree, the ground work of the superstructure which was intended to be raised in the Army by the Anonymous Addresser.

That no Man can be more opposed to State funds and local prejudices than myself, the whole tenor of my conduct has been one continual evidence of; No Man perhaps has had better opportunities to *see* and to *feel* the pernicious tendency of the latter than I have and I endeavor (I hope not altogether ineffectually) to inculcate them upon the Officers of the Army upon all proper occasions; but their feelings are to be attended to and soothed; and they assured that if Continental funds cannot be established, they will be recommended to their respective States for payment, justice must be done them.

I should do injustice to report, and what I believe to be the opinion of the Army were I not to inform you,

56. Gouverneur Morris.

that they consider you as a friend, zealous to serve them, and one who has espoused their interests in Congress upon every proper occasion. It is to be wished, as I observed in my letter to Colo. Bland, that Congress would send a Comee. to the Army with Plenipo: powers; The matters requested of me in your letter of the ⁵⁷ as Chairman of a Comee., and many other things might then be brought to a close with more dispatch and in a happier manner than it is likely they will be by an intercourse of letters at the distance of 150 Miles; which takes *our* Expresses, a week *at least* to go and come. At this moment, being without any instructions from Congress, I am under great embarrassment with respect to the Soldiers for the War and shall be obliged more than probably, from the necessity of the case, to exercise my own judgment without waiting for Orders, as to the discharge of them. If I should adopt measures which events may approve; all will be well. If otherwise, why and by what Authority did you do so?

How far a *strong* recommendation from Congress to observe *All* the Articles of Peace as well as the ⁵⁸ may imply a suspicion of good faith in the people of this country, I pretend not to judge;

but I am much mistaken if something of the kind will not be found wanting as I already perceive a disposition to Carp at, and to elude such parts of the treaty as affect different interests altho' you do not find a Man who, when pushed, will not acknowledge that upon the *whole* it is a more advantageous Peace than we could possibly have expected. I am &c.⁵⁹

57. Of April 9.

58. Blank in both the letter sent and the draft.

59. From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Newburgh, April 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: However great the merits of: the Marqs. De la Fayette may be, however important his Services to this Country, and however strong my friendship for, and inclination to serve him, it never was my intention to promote his wishes at the expense of the interest, policy, or dignity of our National character. If my last letter to you therefore, conveyed an idea repugnant to these sentiments, I beg it may be ascribed to the inaccuracy of my expression. I was aware that motives, such as you have described, might be opposed to his desires; and said, or meant to say, if Congress saw no impropriety in the gratification of his request, I was perswaded they wanted not inclination to oblige a man who had shewn such Zeal in the Service of this Country. More than this I did not mean to say; less, I could not if he had any other design in the transcript of his letter (which I gave you) than a mere communication to me, of what he had written to you.

Private gratifications should ever, in my opinion, yield to public considerations where they are built on a proper basis, and I am perswaded that the Marquis, however ambitious, and eager he may be in pursuit of glory, will readily acquiesce to a refusal which is made upon public ground.

I have been thus particular, lest some things in my last letter, which was written in haste (as most of my private

letters are) should have conveyed more than I intended. There is no Man upon Earth I have a greater inclination to serve than the Marquis La Fayette; but I have not a wish to do it in matters that interfere with, or are repugnant to, our National policy, dignity, or interest.

As this letter is only intended as an explication of my last, I shall add no more than that I am with much truth etc.

***To MISS SIDNEY LEE⁷⁵**

Head Quarters in the State of New York, April 20, 1783.

Madam: Not till yesterday was I honored with your favors of the 14th. of January.

I delay not a moment to assure you, that, with great pleasure I undertake to procure for you an authentic Copy of Genl. Lee's Will, in which, from report, you have a considerable Interest.

If upon receipt of it, it shall appear that any opinion of mine can be of Service to you, I will submit it to your consideration with great chearfulness. In the mean while, permit

75. Sister of Maj. Gen. Charles Lee.

me to offer you compliments of condolence on the loss of so near a relation; who was possessed of many⁷⁶ great qualities, and to assure you of the Respect and consideration with which I have the honor etc.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH**

Newburgh, April 21, 1783.

Dear Sir: In answer to your private letter of the 16th. I can promise no more than a disposition to promote your wishes; and this, if it is in my power, and circumstances are not opposed to it, will carry me to the extent of your desire. But no Peace establishment is yet adopted, nor do I know upon what terms it will; whether Continental, State, or any at all; whether the present Troops (who have part of their term of Service to perform) with their Officers, will be employed, or New Corps raised; In a word, I am, at this moment quite in the dark; consequently cannot speak with decision to you. With great regard etc.

76. The draft has the words “and amiable” crossed off.

***To JAMES MADISON**

Newburgh, April 22, 1783.

Sir: Major McHenry, formerly an Assistant Secretary to me, and afterwards Aid de Camp to the Marqs. de la Fayette, informs me that Congress are about to appoint Official Secretaries for their Ministers abroad, and expresses a wish to go in that Character to the Court of Versailles, or London.

Justice, if I could divest myself of the inclination to serve this Gentleman, would compel me to represent him as a Man of Letters and Abilities, of great integrity, sobriety and prudence. In a word, a Man of strict honor; possessing all those good qualities (without a bad one with which I am acquainted) necessary to fit him for such an Office. He would, I am perswaded, render the Minister to whom he should be appointed Secretary, very happy in such a connection; as he is of an amiable temper; very obliging, and of polished manners. His Interest too lyes in this Country.

I have now to entreat your excuse for the freedom of this recommendation; a desire to serve a Man who has followed my fortunes, and shared in my perplexities, has prompted me to it; but I never have, nor never will, from these considerations alone recommend a person to an Office of trust who I am not morally certain is fully competent to

the duties of it. I have the honor etc.⁸⁵

***To ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

Newburgh, April 22, 1783.

Dear Sir: I did not receive your letter of the 15th. till after my return from Ringwood, where I had a meeting with the Secretary at War for the purpose of making arrangements for the release of our Prisoners, agreeably to the resolve of Congress of the 15th. Inset.

Finding a diversity of opinion respecting the Treaty, and the line of conduct we ought to observe with the Prisoners; I requested, in precise terms, to know from Genl. Lincoln (before I entered on the business) whether we were to exercise our own judgment with respect to the *time*, as well as *mode* of releasing them, or was to be confined to the latter. Being informed that we had no option in the first, Congress wishing to be eased of the expence as soon as possible, I acted *solely* on that ground.

At the same time I scruple not to confess to you, that if this measure was not dictated by necessity, it is, in

85. The draft is indorsed by Washington: "A Similar Letter was written to Mr. Livingston Secretary of F: Affairs."

my opinion, an impolitic one; as we place ourselves in the power of the British, before the Treaty is definitive.

The manner in which Peace was first announced, and the subsequent declarations of it, have led the Country and Army into a belief that it was final. the ratification of the Preliminary Articles on the 3d. of February, so far confirmed this, that one consequence resulting from it is, the Soldiers for the War conceive the term of their Services has actually expired; and I believe it is not in the power of Congress or their Officers, to hold them much, if any, longer; for we are obliged at this

moment to increase our Guards to prevt. rioting, and the Insults which the Officers meet with in attempting to hold them to their duty. The proportion of these Men amount to Seven Elevenths of this Army; these we shall loose at the moment the British Army will receive, by their Prisoners, an augmentation of five or 6000 Men.

It is not for me to investigate the causes, which induced this measure; nor the policy of those Letters (from Authority) which gave the Ton to the present sentiments; but since they have been adopted, we ought, in my opinion, to put a good face upon matters; and by a liberal conduct throughout, on our part (freed from appearances of distrust) try if we cannot excite similar dispositions on theirs. Indeed circumstanced as things *now* are, I wish most fervently that all the Troops which are not retained for a Peace Establishment were to be discharged immediately, or such of them at least as do not incline to

await the Settlement of their Accts. If they continue here, their claims, I can plainly perceive, will encrease; and our perplexities multiply. A Petition is this moment handed to me from the Non cored. Officers of the Connecticut line solliciting half Pay; It is well drawn I am told, but I did not read it; I sent it back without appearing to Understand the Contents, because it did not come through the Channel of their Officers. This may be followed by others, and I mention it to shew the necessity, the absolute necessity of discharging the *Wars men* as soon as possible.

I have taken much pains to support Mr. Morris's Administration in the Army, and in proportion to its numbers I believe he had not more friends any where; but if he will neither adopt the mode which has been suggested, point out any other, nor shew cause why the first is either impracticable or impolitic (I have heard he objects to it,) they will certainly attribute their disappointment to a luke warmness in him, or some design incompatable with their Interests; and here, my dear Colo. Hamilton, let me assure you, that it would not be more difficult to still the raging Billows in a tempestuous Gale, than to convince the Officers of this Army of the justice or policy of paying men in Civil Offices full wages, when *they* cannot obtain a Sixtieth part of their dues. I am not unapprised of the Arguments which are made use of upon this occasion, to discriminate the cases;

but they really are futile; and may be summed up in this, that, tho' both are contending for the same rights, and expect equal

benefits, yet, both cannot submit to the same inconveniences to obtain them; otherwise, to adopt the language of simplicity and plainness, a Ration of Salt Porke with, or without Pease, as the case often is, would support the one as well as the other and in such a struggle as ours, wd. in my opinion, be alike honourable in both.

My anxiety to get home increases with the prospect of it, but when is it to happen? I have not heard that Congress have yet had under consideration the Lands, and other gratuities, which at different periods of the War, have been promised to the Army. Do not these things evince the necessity of a Committee's repairing to Camp, in order to arrange and adjust matters without spending time in a tedious exchange of Letters. Unless something of this kind is adopted, business will be delayed and expences accumulated; or the Army will break up in disorder; go home enraged, complaining of injustice, and committing enormities on the innocent Inhabitants in every direction.

I write to you unreservedly. If therefore, contrary to my apprehension, all these matters are in a proper train, and Mr. Morris has devised means to give the Army three Months pay, you will, I am perswaded excuse my precipitency and sollicitude, by ascribing it to an earnest wish to see the War happily, and honourably terminated; to my anxious desire of enjoying same repose; and the necessity of my paying a little attention to my private concerns, which have suffered considerably in Eight

years absence.

Mr. Henry, expressing, a letter I have lately received from him, a wish to be appointed Official Secretary to the Court of Versailles, or London, I have by this oppertunity written to Mr. Livingston, and Mr. Maddison; speaking of him in warm terms, and wish him success with all my heart. I am etc.⁸⁶

***To JACOB MORRIS**

Newburgh, April 22, 1783.

Sir: I have lately received a Letter from Miss Lee, Sister to the deceased General Lee, requesting me to obtain for her, an authentic copy of his Will. this I have promised to do, and know of no way so likely to effect it, *soon* , as by applying to you. May I therefore entreat the favor of you to procure, and send to me an attested Copy thereof? any expence that may attend it, I will pay.

If I knew in what Office the Will was recorded I would have made a direct application to it without giving you any trouble; as I do not this, must be my apology for the application from Sir Yr etc.

86. From the original in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN**

Newburgh, April 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: I received with much pleasure the kind congratulations contained in your letter of the 25th. Ulto. from Philadelphia, on the honorable termination of the War. No Man, indeed, can relish the approaching Peace with more heart felt, and grateful satisfaction than myself. A Mind always upon the stretch, and tortured with a diversity of perplexing circumstances, needed a respite; and I anticipate the pleasure of a little repose and retirement. It has been happy for me, always to have Gentlemen about me willing to share my troubles, and help me out of difficulties. to none of these can I ascribe a greater share of merit than to you.

I can scarce form an idea at this moment, when I shall be able to leave this place. the distresses of the Army for want of Money; the embarrassments of Congress, and the conseqt. delays, and disappointments on all sides, encompass me with difficulties; and produce, every day, some fresh source for uneasiness. But as I now see the Port opening to which I have been steering, I shall persevere till I have gained admittance. I will then leave the States to improve their present

constitution, so as to make that Peace and Independency for which we have fought and obtained, a blessing to Millions yet unborn; but to do this, liberallity must supply the place of prejudice,

and *unreasonable* jealousies must yield to that confidence, which *ought* to be placed in the sovereign Power of these States. In a word the Constitution of Congress must be competent to the *general purposes of Government* ; and of such a nature as to bind us together. otherwise, we may well be compared to a rope of Sand, and shall as easily be broken and in a short time become the sport of European politics, altho' we might have no *great* inclination to jar among ourselves.

From the intimation in your Letter, and what I have heard from others I presume this letter will find you in the State of Wedlock. On this happy event I pray you, and your Lady, to accept of my best wishes, and sincerest congratulations; in which Mrs. Washington joins hers most cordially. With the most Affectionate esteem, etc.⁹⁸

***To JAMES McHENRY**

Newburgh, April 24, 1783.

Dear sir: Immediately upon the receipt of your letter of the 15th. Expressive of your wish to go to the Court of Versailles, or London as official Secretary to the Embassy, I wrote to Messrs. Livingston and Maddison on the subject, and mentioned you in warm

98. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

terms to them. the Letters will go by this days Post.

I thank you very sincerely for your kind congratulation on the approaching Peace; none can enjoy it with more heart felt satisfaction than myself; but when I shall be able to leave this place is uncertain. there are many embarrassing matters to settle first, and I am at this moment surrounded by more perplexing circumstances than you can have an idea of.

As I shall have pleasure in spending a day at Baltimore on my return home, I can have no merit in complying with what you say is the wish of the Citizens of that place;⁹⁷ from whom I have received many marks of attention and politeness. I am etc.

***To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON**

Newburgh, April 30, 1783.

My dear Sir: I thank you very sincerely for your kind congratulations on the close of the War, and the glorious Peace which is held out to us, but not yet made definitive; I return them with great cordiality and heart felt pleasure; and only wish that the business was so far wound up as that I might return to the Walks of private life and in retirement enjoy that relaxation

97. McHenry had written (April 15) that the citizens of Baltimore “all anxiously wish to possess you for *one day* at Baltimore, and I beg you will make it convenient to oblige them in what they have so much at heart.” McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

and repose which is absolutely necessary for me.

My first wish now is, that the States may be wise; that they may improve the advantages which they have obtained; that they may consider themselves individually, as parts of the great whole; and not by unreasonable jealousies, and ill-founded prejudices, destroy the goodly fabrick we have been Eight years labouring to erect. But without more liberality of Sentiment and action, I expect but little.

Immediately upon the receipt of your Letter of the 31st. Ulto, I transmitted the list of your Slaves to a Gentleman; a worthy active Man, of my acquaintance in N York and requested him to use his endeavors to obtain and forward them to you. All that can be done, I am sure he will do, but I have but little expectation that many will be recovered; several of my own are with the Enemy but I scarce ever bestowed a thought on them; they have so many doors through which they can escape from New York, that scarce any thing but an inclination to return, or voluntarily surrender of

themselves will restore many to their former Masters, even supposing every disposition on the part of the Enemy to deliver them. With great truth etc.

To DUC DE LAUZUN

Newburgh, May 1, 1783.

My Dear Duke: It was with pain I received information, from the Chevr De la Luzerne, that the French corps under your orders was recalled; this event I fear will take you from this Country contrary to my wishes, and what you were polite enough to say, your own inclination before you had visited the Southern states.

No circumstance would contribute more to my satisfaction than to have the pleasure of your company at Mount Vernon and to shew you every attention and respect in your proposed tour. I will still hope for this pleasure; but if circumstances direct otherwise you will carry my warmest wishes with you and though I cannot at this moment assure myself of the practicability of a visit to France, the pleasure of meeting you there would be one of my greatest inducement; and if I come, I shall claim your promise of accompanying me on the tour you marked out.

I depart from this place To morrow for the purpose of having an interview with Sir Guy Carleton on Munday next at Dobbss Ferry to settle matters respecting the evacuation of the Posts and security of american property agreeably to the 7th. article of the provisional treaty and a resolve

of Congress of the 15th. of last month.

I shall not in this letter bid you more than a temporary adieu because I do not relinquish the hope of your remaining some time on this Continent after the French Troops shall have embarked. I have the honour etc.²⁴

***To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON**

Tappan, May 6, 1783.

My dear Sir: A few days ago I wrote to you from Newburgh; and informed you (if I mistake not) of the meeting I was to hold with Sir Guy Carleton consequent of the resolve of Congress directing me to make arrangements with him for delivery of the Posts, Negros and other property belonging to the Citizens of the United States.

This meeting I have had; but the Indisposition of Genl. Carleton has taken him back to New York this Morning before the business could be brought to a close: I have discovered enough however, in the course of the conversation which was held, to convince me that the Slaves which have absconded from their Masters will never be restored to them. Vast

24. From a copy in the writing of Martha Washington.

numbers of them are already gone to Nova Scotia, and the Construction which he (Sir Guy) puts upon the 7th. article of the provisional treaty differs very widely from ours; but as I have given him my Sentiments in writing and have not yet received his in that way I cannot be more explicit at this time on this Subject. I could not however, altho' I am hurried, and upon the point of returning to Newburgh forbear giving you this concise acct. of my interview and the little good which I think is to be expected from the aforesaid article respecting the Negros. I am etc.

P.S. I have reed. your Letter of the 18th. and mean this (at least for the present) as an answer to it.

***To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU**

Newburgh, May 10, 1783.

It must, my dear Count, have been a pleasing event to you, to have landed on your Native shore, crowned with Laurels after a perilous passage and the hazard of being taken; and to have receiv'd, as I am perswaded you must have done, the Smiles of a Wise and generous Prince. On these happy events I sincerely congratulate you.

To the generous aids of your Nation, and the bravery of its Sons, is to be ascribed in a very great degree that Independence for which we have fought, and after a severe conflict of more than Seven years, have obtained. The first wish of my heart is to pay the tribute of respect to a Country to which, from Public and private considerations, I feel myself bound by the most Affectionate Ties. but whether circumstances will place it in my power to gratify these wishes, is beyond my present ken. To meet you in France would be one of my greatest Inducements to go thither.

Since the ratification of the Preliminary Articles, every thing in this Country has assumed an appearance of tranquility. The British Forces however, still continue in New York; nor am I able at this moment, to fix any epoch for their departure. General Carleton with whom I have had a conference on this business at Dobbs's Ferry) says, that every exertion is making on his part for this purpose, and that he has already sent off for Hallefax and other parts of Nova Scotia, at least 6000 Refugees or Loyalists; and that it is his wish to withdraw his Troops from the United States as soon as possible, as the expence of keeping them there is considerable. In the mean time we are looking anxiously for the Definitive Treaty which alone can give perfect satisfaction, by removing doubts, difficulties and delays.

My best wishes will ever attend you; with consideration etc.⁴⁴

44. From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX**

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 10, 1783.

My dear Chevr: The Affectionate expressions in your farewell letter of the 8th. of Jany from Annapolis gave a new spring to the pleasing remembrance of our past Intimacy; and your Letter of the 4th. of March from Paris, has convinced me that time nor distance can eradicate the Seeds of friendship when they have taken root in a good Soil and are nurtured by Philanthropy and benevolence. That I value your esteem, and wish to retain a place in your Affections, are truths

of which I hope your are convinced: as I wish you to be of my sincerity when I assure you, that, it is among the first wishes of my heart to pay the tribute of respect to your Nation, to which I am prompted by motives of public considerations, and private friendships; but how far it may be in my power to yield a prompt obedience to my inclination is more than I can decide upon at present. You have, my dear Chevr., placed before my eyes the exposed situation of my Seat on the Potomack and warned me of the danger which is to be apprehended from a Surprise; but, as I have an entire confidence in, and an A affection for your Countrymn. I shall bid defiance to the enterprise under a full perswn. that if success attend it, and I cannot make terms for my releasement, I shall be generously used by my Captors, and there is such a thing as a pleasing Captivity.

At present, both Armies remain in the Situation you left them, except that all Acts of hostility have ceased in this quarter and things have put on a more tranquil appearance than heretofore.

We look forward with anxious expectation for the Definitive treaty to remove the doubts and difficulties which prevail at present, and our Country of our Newly acquired friends in New York, and other places within these States of whose Company we are heartily tired. Sir Guy, with whom I have had a meeting at Dobbss ferry for the purpose of ascertaining the Epoch of this event, wd. give me no definitive answer; but general assurances, that he has taken every preparatory step for it, one of which was that a few days before, he had shipped off for Nova Scotia upwards of 6000 Refugees or Loyalists; who apprehending they would not be received as Citizens of these United States he thought it his duty to remove previous to the evacuation of the City by the Kings Troops.

The Indians have recommenced hostilities on the Frontiers of Pensylvania and Virginia; killing and scalping whole families, who had just returned to the habitations from which they had fled, in expectation of enjoying them again in Peace; these people will be troublesome Neighbours to us unless they can be removed to a much greater distance and this is only to be done by purchase, or Conquest; which of the two will be adopted by Congress I know not. the first, I believe would be cheapest, and most consistent perhaps with justice. the latter most effectual.

Mrs. Washington is very sensible of your kind remembrance of her, and presents her best respects to you; in which all the Gentlemen of my family who are with me, cordially and sincerely join. Tilghman, I expect, has, before this entered into the Matrimonial state with a Couzen of his, whom you may have seen at Mr. Carrolls near Baltimore. My best wishes attend Baron Montesque,⁴⁵ and such other Gentlemen within your circle, as I have the honor of an Acquaintance with.

I can only repeat to you the assurances of the most perfect friendship and attachment and that I am etc.

***To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**

Head Quarters, Newburg, May 10, 1783.

My dear Marquiss: My letter of the 5th. of last Month by your Servant, acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 5th. of Feby. from Cadiz. I have now to thank you for your letter of the 2d. of March⁴⁶ from Bordeaux which came to my hands a few days ago. If I can get my Letter to Philada. in time, it

45. Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, Marquis de la Brède. He was aide to Chastellux.

46. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

will be conveyed to you by the Duke de Lauzen who (with his Legion) is on the point of Embarkation; and will carry with him my best wishes, and warmest friendship.

We are much indebted to you for your exertions at the Court of Spain; your Conduct there, affords us a fresh instance of your zeal in the Cause of America; and of your abilities to serve it; and will, if possible, endear you to us more.

Congress have taken no steps, I believe, towards the appointment of a Minister for the Court of London; or if they have, it is not in my power to give you any information on this subject. they (one may presume, because it is the case with all others) are waiting with great and anxious impatience for the definitive Treaty of Peace, that a Civil and Military Establishment may succeed. At present we can form no conjecture of the time when the British Troops will evacuate New York. I have lately had a meeting with Sir Guy Carleton (at Dobbs's Ferry) on this business, but could extract nothing more than that it was his wish to withdraw the Troops as soon as possible. That he was using his best endeavors for this purpose; and that the British Government could have no inducement to continue them there a moment longer than they could avoid it.

Our Men, whose terms of Service were to expire with the War, not being able to distinguish between the ratification of the Preliminary Articles, and a definitive Treaty of Peace; and being very desirous of their discharges; have with

difficulty, been kept under due Subordination but have not in any instance proceeded to such acts of outrage as I find the Scotch Corps in England have done.

The Indians on the Frontiers of Virginia and Pensylvania have lately committed Acts of hostility, murdering and Scalping many of the innocent Settlers, who were returning to their former habitations in hopes of possessing them in Peace. It is much to be doubted whether these wretches will ever suffer our Frontiers to enjoy tranquility till they are either exterminated, or removed to a much greater distance from us than they now are.

We are told that a general change has taken place in the British Ministry upon the principle of a Coalition of Parties; of what this is portentous I know not; time must discover. I never can too often repeat to you the warmth of my friendship, and my wishes to see you in this Country; nor can I give you too many assurances of my affection.

Mrs. Washington offers respectful Compliments to Madame La Fayette, in which mine are very cordially joined. Tilghman, by this time, is I presume, one of those domestic *things* called

a Husband; the rest of my family are in statu quo wishing you to receive the homage of their respectful attachments. With the greatest sincerity etc.

To ELISHA BOUDINOT

Newburgh, May 10, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of congratulation contains expressions of too friendly a nature not to affect me with the deepest sensibility. I beg therefore you will accept my acknowledgments for them, and that you will be persuaded I can never be insensible of the interest you are pleased to take in my personal happiness, as well as in the general felicity of our Country. While I candidly confess I cannot be indifferent to the favorable sentiments, which you mention, my fellow Citizens entertain of my exertions in their service; I wish to express thro' you, the particular obligations I feel myself under to Mr Smith for the pleasure I have received from the perusal of his elegant Ode on the Peace.⁴⁷

The accomplishment of the great object we had in view, in so short a time, and under such propitious circumstances, must I am confident, fill every bosom with the purest joy; and for my own part, I will not strive to conceal the pleasure I already anticipate from my approaching retirement to the placid Walks of domestic life. Having no rewards to ask for myself, if I have been so happy as to obtain the approbation of my Countrymen, I shall be satisfied; but it still rests with them to compleat my wishes, by adopting such a System of Policy, as will ensure the future reputation, tranquility, happiness and glory of this extensive

47. A copy of this "Ode on the Peace," composed by Boudinot's father-in-law, accompanies Boudinot's letter of April, 1783, in the *Washington Papers*.

Empire; to which desirable object, I am well assured, nothing can contribute so much, as *an inviolable adherence to the principles of the Union*, and a fixed Resolution of building the *National faith on the basis of public Justice*; without which, all that has been done and suffered, is in vain; to

effect which, therefore, the abilities of every true Patriot, ought to be exerted with the greatest zeal and assiduity.

I am as yet uncertain, at what time I shall be at liberty to return to Virginia, and consequently cannot inform you, whether I may be able to gratify my inclination of spending a little time with my friends in Jersey, as I pass thro' that State. I can only say that the friendship I have for a People, from whom I have often derived such essential aid, will strongly dispose me to it.

Mrs Washington begs Mrs Boudinot and yourself will accept her best Complts and thanks for your good wishes; and I must request the same favour, being with sentiments of esteem etc.⁴⁸

***To JAMES McHENRY**

Newburgh, May 14, 1783.

Dear Sir: You will see by the inclosed Copies,

48. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

which are answers to my letters to Mr. Livingston and Mr. Madison, upon what footing the Appointment to Foreign Courts stand.

If these Gentlemen should leave Congress previous to the taking place of this event: Your friends in Congress should advise you thereof and of the time at which these Elections will probably be made; and I can facilitate your wishes by addressing myself on the occasion to any other of its Members (with whom I am acquainted) You may freely lay your Commands on Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH**

Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: Sometime in the Winter, or early this Spring, a Frenchman in New York applied after representing the manner of his getting to that place) for leave to come out. Being a stranger of whom I had no knowledge and only his own word to support his narrative, I informed him that his application would go with more propriety to the Minister of France at Phila, than it came to me, and referred him there accordingly. The other day at Orange Town Mr. Fraunces⁶¹ informed me, that, this applicant was the Dentist⁶² of whose skill much has been said; and that he was

61. Samuel Fraunces.

62. Dr. Jean Pierre Le Mayeur.

very uneasy at not being able to get out. Having some Teeth which are very troublesome to me at times, and of wch. I wish to be eased, provided I could substitute others (not by transplantation, for of this I have no idea, even with young people, and sure I am it cannot succeed with old,) and Gums which might be relieved by a Man of skill, I would thank you for making a private Investigation of this Mans Character and knowledge in his profession and if you find them such as I can derive any benefit from encourage him to come out, and to take this in his way to whatever post, or place he may be bound. At any rate, if he really is skilful, I should be glad to see him with his Apparatus. I would not wish that this matter should be made a parade of, and therefore give you the trouble of arranging it. I cannot (having forgot it) give you this Mans name, but Mr. Frauncis can point you to him. I think he told me he lodged at a Ms. Lispenards where he had exhibited some proofs of his skill⁶³

I will thank you for procuring and sending to me the Articles mentioned in the Inclosed List.⁶⁴ Get Mr. Parker to Pay for them, and place it to the Acct. between me and the Contractors. I am etc.

P.S. I have seen Advertised by Geo. and Chs. Lowe No. 57⁶⁵ Tin Plates in Boxes. Be so good as to examine these, and

63. On May 20 Smith replied that Le Mayeur was “considered particularly eminent He came to this Country, about 3 year past. recommended by General Conway to Sir Henry Clinton and General Robinson, who received him with every mark of attention. He continued in favour until one day at dinner with General Robinson and some British Officers, his Country as connected with this was reflected upon, he replied with a degree of warmth displeasing to the General who after continuing to notice him some weeks with a cold Civility, permitted him to remain ever after unattended to, except by the Eye of suspicion. He is a man of polished Manner, of strict Integrity, at the Head of his Profession and a friend to this Country.” Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

64. The draft of the list of articles accompanies the draft of this letter in the *Washington Papers*. The items wanted were “The Duke of Hamilton's Travels through France; Young's Tour through Ireland; The Trial between Sir Richard Worsley and Maurice Bissett; a pair of handsome and Fashionable Spurrs; 10 lbs of the best Hair powder, 4 lbs of which was to be Grey.”

65. Name of the street inadvertently omitted.

let me know the number in each Box; the kind and price; and whether there are Dishes with them and the prices of these also.

I wish also to know if there are any good Letter Cases with Ink, &ca. in them and the Price.

***To CHARLES CROOKSHANKS & COMPANY**

Head Qrs., Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Gentn: The last Southern Mail brot. me a Letter from Jno. Searle Esqr. and Co. inclosing a Bill of Lading for two Pipes of old Madeira Wine which were Shipped in the Freemason Capt'n. Wm. Thomas, and Consigned to your care at Oxford. I shall thank you, Gentlemen, for forwarding the said Wine to Mr. Lund Washington on Potomk. River; 10 Miles below Alexa. in Virginia; who will pay the freight of them from the Island, and round to that place. I have only to entreat that they may be committed to safe hands, to prevent wastage or adulteration. I have the honor etc.

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Hd. Qrs., Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: It is reported to us, that, Goods in

Phila. are now selling below the prime cost, or below what formerly was the prime cost of the like articles in England. Should this be the case, of which none can judge better than yourself, it would suit me very well to procure for my Family the following Articles. 1000 Ells of German Oznabgs. or Ticklinburg

4 ps. of Linn. at abt. 18d

4 Do...Do 2/6

4 Do...Do 4/

2 ps. of Sheeting 3/6

Sterlg. prime Cost

a piece of fine Cambk. 2 pieces strong Check, wide kind 2 dozn. large Table Cloths 3 dozn. Napkins to suit Do. 12 pt. largest, and best kind of Bed Blankets 200 (Dutch) Blankets for my Negros. I Cask of 4d. Nails.

1 Cask of 8d.

1 Do 10d

1 Do 20d

Nails: flat points

4 Ct. weight of white Lead Gd. in Oyl. 1 Piece of Russd. drilling.

If the above Articles can be had at such low rates as we are informed I would thankfully allow the usual Commissions for purchasing of them. The Money shall be paid *here* upon

demand or if it necessary to deposite at the Sale, Mr. Morris I perswade myself upon shewing him this Letter would advance it in Phila. and direct the application of the like sum in my hands which shall be paid to his order.

You will be pleased to observe that the purchase of these things depends *absolutely* upon the price; as I do not mean to buy them unless they are as low as they are reported to be.

The Blankets which I used to Import for my Negros came under the description of Dutch Blankets, abt. 15 in a piece, striped large and of the best quality, such I now want. In case of a purchase, I would have them sent to my House upon Potomack River consigned to Mr. Lund Washington at Mr. Vernon abt. 10 Miles below Alexa.

My Compliments to which Mrs. Washingtons are joined are offered to Mrs. Biddle and I am etc.

To — STARR⁶⁶

Newburgh, May 15, 1783.

Sir: I want a neat pair sumr. Boots. You have heretofore made me two pair; neither of which fitd. being two long and large in the Shoe, and too loose in the small of

66. A boot and shoe maker in Philadelphia.

the Leg; this, I presume, has been occasioned by your not understanding my mode of measuring; tho' taken agreeably to the directions of Mr. Didsbury of London; from whom; before the War, I always got my Shoes and Boots and of the size exactly to suit me.

I again inclose you a measure taken very correctly, more so perhaps than any of the former, by which if you think you can make me a pair of thin, draw Boots, I could wish to have them sent to me as soon as possible. If on the other hand, you have any doubts about you, I had rather you would hold in reserve some good Leather and wait, altho' I am in immediate want, till you can take measure of me yourself. At any rate let me know by the Post whether I am to depend on the Boots *immediately* , or not, that I may govern myself accordingly. I am etc.

***To MISS SIDNEY LEE**

Hd. Qrs., State of New York, May 15, 1783.

Madam: Pursuant to the Promise in my last, I wrote to a Gentlemen who I thought most likely to obtain an Authenticated Copy of your Brothers Will, and have receivd an answer, of which the Inclosed is a Copy. When I get the Will, it shall

be forwarded, notwithstanding Copies thereof appear to have been sent to you heretofore. With great respect etc.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH**

Newburgh, May 21, 1783.

Dear Sir: I wrote to you a few days ago for some Books &ca.; since that I have seen the following Books advertised for Sale by Mills & Hicks at their Printing office which I beg the favor of you to procure and send to me.

Charles the 12th. of Sweeden.

Lewis the 15th. 2 Vols.

History of the Life and Reign of the Czar Peter, the Great.

Robertsons History of America 2 Vols

Voltaires Letters

Wildman on Trees; if in Estimation

Vertots Revolution of Rome 3 Vols.

Do. of Portugal

If they are Esteemed

If there is a good Booksellers Shop in the City I

would thank you for sending me a Catalogue of them and the prices that I may choose such as I want. I am etc.⁸³

***To JOHN SEARLE & COMPANY⁸⁴**

Head Qrs., State of New York, May 21, 1783.

Gentln: A few days ago I was honored with your favor of the 3d. Ulto. inclosing a Bill of Lading for two Pipes of Wine consigned to Messrs. Chas. Crookshanks & Co. of Maryland for, and on my Acct. It is to be presumed the Vessell is safe arrived at her destined Port as the *original* Letter and Invoice are come to hand; but having heard nothing from these Gentlemen on the subject I am totally in the Dark respecting the matter.

I shall pay, as you desire, the cost of the Wine, to wit: £72. Sterlg. to Lewis Pintard Esqr. and have to thank you for this Instance of your recollection of and attention to me, and to request that you would by the first *good* conveyance to Potomack River in Virginia send me two other Pipes of your

very choicest (old) Madeira Wine, a Box of Citron and two Baskets of Figs (both fresh and good), the cost of all which

83. On Smith's letter of May 20 Washington has entered: "Also reed. Robinsons History of America Voltairs Letters Lewis 15th. 4 Vols Charles the 12th. Register for 1781."

84. Then located on the Madeira Islands.

shall be paid to Mr. Pintard if it is your desire.

Permit me, before I conclude, to express to you my sensibility at the favourable manner in which you have been pleased to Speak of my Services in the great contest between America and G: Britain; from the distresses of which she has now a prospect of emerging. For your congratulations on the success of this arduous struggle and your friendly wishes for my persl prospy you will please to accept my acknowledgements and thanks, and the assurances of my being Gentn, Yr. etc.

***To LEWIS PINTARD**

New Burgh, May 21, 1783.

Sir: The last Post brought me your favor of the 14th. and the Post before handed me a Letter from Messrs. Jno. Searle & Co. inclosing a Bill of Lading for two Pipes of old Madeira Wine consigned to Messrs. Crookshanks & Co. of Maryld. for my use. Having received no letter from the Gentlemen whose names are last mentioned respecting the arrival of the Wine I have written to them on the Subject, and as soon as I get their

answer will remit you the Sum of £72. Sterlg; Cost of the two Pipes.

The Letter herewith inclosed, requests a like qty. of Wine, and I beg the favor of you to take the trouble of forwarding it by the first safe conveyance. I am etc.

***To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE**

Newburgh, June 7, 1783

Sir: My Nephew²¹ who will have the honor of delivering this Letter to you, has been in bad health for more than twelve Months; he is advised by his Physicians to spend the Summer Season on the Island of Rhode Island for the benefit of the Sea Air. Any Civilities which you shew him will be thankfully acknowledged by Sir Yr.²²

21. George Augustine Washington.

22. This same letter was sent to Deputy Gov. Jabez Bowen, Capt. Isaac Collins, William Channing, and Capt.—Gardner.

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Newburgh, June 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th of May in answer to my Letter of the 15th. of the same Month, is at hand. I shall rely upon your care and attention for the purchase of the Articles mentioned in the latter; Those most wanted, and which are most essential to me are the Blankets and Ticklinburg for my Negros, and these are not in *immediate* demand.

Apropos, did I not when the Army was leaving the Cantonment of Middle Brook, in June 1779, put a Theodilite into your care to be conveyed to Mr. Rittenhouse⁷ to receive some repairs? It is like a dream to me; You, or Mr. Irskine,⁸ I am not sure which undertook this business; and I have not heard since what was done with the Instrumt. Will you be so good as to enquire whether it ever reached Mr. Rittenhouse, and to prevail on him to afford it the necessary repairs without delay if he has it.

My Complimts, in which Mrs. Washington joins, is offered to Mrs. Biddle, and I am etc.

7. David Rittenhouse.

8. Robert Erskine.

***To CHARLES CROOKSHANKS & COMPANY**

Newburgh, June 11, 1783.

Gentn: The Inclosed is a copy of my last, since which I have been favored with your Letter of the 18th. of May from Baltimore; I have to thank you for your care of the Wine which was consigned to you by Messrs. Searle & Co of Madeira for my use. I beg leave to repeat my wish that they may be sent to my House in Virginia agreeably to the direction contained in the Inclosed.

Your offer of the freight I consider as a mark of very polite attention, but wish, Gentlemen, you would not deprive yourselves of the benefit arising from your Vessel. I shall pay it with great pleasure at the same time I render you many thanks for the trouble you have had in this business. I have the honor etc.

PS. Please to draw on Mr. Lund Washington for the Duty and it will be immediately paid.

***To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**

Newburgh, June 15, 1783.

My dear Marqs: You are too well acquainted with the merits of Colo. Gouvion to need my testimony either of his Services, abilities or worth; and yet, my wish to see them rewarded, induces me to repeat and even to impress them upon you. I dare not take the liberty of bringing this officer directly before Monsr. the Count de Segar²⁰ but if the communication of my ideas of his deserts and my desire to serve him would contribute to procure him the Smiles of that Minister I should have no objection to their being offered in any manner your prudence shall dictate.

We remain here in a listless state, awaiting the arrival of the definitive Treaty; the uncertainty of wch. added to the great expence of subsisting the Army, have induced Congress to Furlough (which, in the present case is but another term for discharging) all the Soldiers who stood engaged for the War. This Measure, tho' extremely distressing to the Officers on acct. of their want of pay has been effected without any disorder and with less discontent than could possibly be expected. The three years Men have been formed into Corps and will remain at West Point and in the Vicinity of it till the Treaty arrives and Congress shall have determined on a Peace establishment for this Country. The former, will put a period to my Military Services and carry me back to the Walks of private life. and to that relaxation

20. Philippe Henri, Marquis de Seégur, Minister of War of France.

and repose which cannot but be grateful to a Mind which has been on the stretch for more than Eight Years, great part of wch. it has been embarrassed by a variety of the most perplexing circumstances.

Colo. Gouvion will give you a Pamphlet,²¹ containing a compilation of Original Papers which I have suffered the publication of to shew the Origin; the œconomy, the Justice, and even the necessity of the Half pay, or Commutation of the Half pay, to the Officers of this Army which some of the States have been opposed to. the greatest part of these Papers accomd. one of my late lettrs to you; but they will now appear in a more connected form.

As I have little expectation that Gouvion will find you in France but much of seeing you hear soon, I shall add no more to this letter than my best respects to Madam De la Fayette and my blessing to your little progeny.

With the greatest attachment etc.

***To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Newburgh, June 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received the honr. of your

21. "A Collection of Papers....Printed by Samuel Loudon M,DCC,LXXXIII," previously noted.

Excellency's favor of the 9th. and am very much obliged to you for the Extracts from Mr. Laurens's Letters of the 15th. of March and 5th. of April. By these it does not appear that the British Ministry are in any haste either to evacuate New York or finish the Treaty; both of which are devoutly to be wished. The latter, as it will put a period to my public life, I look forward to it with great solicitude, and shall receive the Acct with heart felt satisfaction that in the Walks of private life my Mind may enjoy that relaxation and repose of which it stands much in need.

The Arrangements, consequent of the resolve of the 26th. of May have been all made; very few besides the three years Men and the Officers who are arranged to them remain; and the business got more happily over than could be expected.

Mrs. Washington is on a jaunt to Æsopus with the Governr and Mrs. Clinton or she would I am sure join me most Cordially in compliments to Mrs., Miss Boudinot and yourself. I have the honor etc.

***To DANIEL PARKER**

Newburgh, June 18, 1783.

Sir: For the purpose of Transportating my Books of record and Papers with safety, I want Six strong hair Trunks

28. Outside dimensions to be: Length, 3 ft. 6 in.; width, 1 ft. 9 in.; depth, 1 ft. 3 in.

well clasped and with good Locks. If such are to be had you will oblige me by the purchase of them. In the margin is the Size which I think would answer best²⁸ but if they should be smaller and of different sizes it matters but little.

Mrs. Washington will also thank you for three yards of black silk like the enclosed; it is to repair old gowns, and consequently must be like them.

If you could make it convenient to pay Lewis Pintard Esqr. (I believe) of New York, Seventy two pounds Sterling for two Pipes of old Madeira Wine just sent to Virginia for me by Messrs. Searle & Co. of that Island I will, immediately upon advise thereof, deposite the like Sum with the difference of Exchange in Specie with Mr. Smith²⁹ and acknowledge it as a favor.

I have requested Mr. Smith to furnish me with a state of my acct. in your Store at this place, which he has done, but the Articles which you purchased for me in New York are not included in it. Will you be so good as to let him have an Acct. of these also that the whole may be discharged at the same time as was my intention when I called upon him.

Colo Smith (at my request) sent me some Books &ca from New York wch. I prayed him to call upon you for the payment of; and it is my wish that every thing which ought to go into my private Acct. may be transmitted to Mr. Smith of this place that the whole may be paid off at once, which I am desirous of doing without delay. Articles

29. Melancton Smith.

which you have been so good to furnish on Public acct. for my use, in which I mean to include the Trunks now required, will compose a seperate Acct. and payment thereof be obtained from the Financier.

In a former conversation, you seemed to be of opinion that Blankets in the Kings Stores when the Troops were upon the point of evacuating the City of New York might be had exceedingly low;

should this be the case I would thank you for purchasing me 150 or two hundred of them if good and large. Do Linnens, Nails, Paints &ca (course³⁰ Articles) still keep up their Prices? With great esteem etc.

PS. Should you be able to procure the Trunks which I have required in the body of this letter, I should be glad to have a Label (in brass or Copper) containing my name, and the year on each.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH**

Newburgh, June 20, 1783.

Dear Sir: Doctr. La Moyuer, by whom I expect you will have receiv'd my letter of the 18th., had scarcely left this when your favor of the 17th. accompanied by Vettots Romish history

30. Coarse.

and Watsons History of Philip the third were put into my hands. for sending me the latter unasked, please to accept my thanks. I shall be obliged to you for sending me by the first good conveyance the following Books; which are advertised for sale in the Gazette you sent me.

Dictionary of Arts and Sciences (4 Vs. with cuts)

Life of Gustavus Adolphus.

Sullys Memoirs.

The World displayed 20 pocket Vols. if it is an esteemed work.

Goldsmiths Natural history.

Campaigns of Marshall Turenne.

Chambauds French and English and English and French Dictionary improved by Perrin.

Locke on the Human Understanding two Vols.

Robertsons History of Chas V⁴⁰

I pray you to get the favor of Mr. Parker to pay for these Books and transmit me the Acct; the amount of wch. shall be deposited with Mr. Smith at this place. As it will be a pretty considerable purchase I may therefore hope to get them on better terms than a single Book or two would be retailed.

Among the Cattalogue of Books Advertised in the Gazette you sent me, I perceive a later Edition of Duke Hamiltons Travels (than the one you sent me before) is included comprehending his subsequent Travels Through Denmark, &ca.

40. In the *Washington Papers*, under date of July 23, 1783, is a "List of Books now at Mount Vernon" in the writing of Lund Washington.

please to add these to your purchase. I am etc.

***To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH**

(Private)

Head Quarters, June 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: Previous to your departure from the Army, I wish to take an oppertunity of expressing my sentiments of your Services; my obligations for your assistance, and my wishes for your future felicity. Our object is at last obtained; the arrangements are almost compleated, and the day of seperation is now at hand.

Permit me therefore to thank you for the trouble you have lately taken in the arrangement of the Corps under your Orders, as well as for all your former chearful and able exertions in the public Service; Suffer me to offer this last testimony of my regard to your merits, and give me leave, my

dear Sir, to assure you of the real Affection and esteem with which I am, and shall at all times, and under all circumstances continue to be, y'r etc.⁵²

52. From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, April, 1936.

***To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON**

Head Qrs., Newburgh, July 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 19th. of June came to my hands on Sunday last by the Southern Mail; from this circumstance, and the date of it I conclude it has been to Philadelphia, a mistake not very unusual for the Post master at Fishkiln to commit.

I delayed not a moment to forwd. the letters which came to me under your cover of the 26th. of Feby. to New York. I did not answer the letter which accompanied them in due Season; not so much from the hurry of business, as because my Sentiments on the essential part of it had been communicated to you before; and because the Annunciation of Peace, which came close upon the heels of it, put an end to all speculative opinions with respect to the time and terms of it.

I now thank you for your kind congratulations on this event. I feel sensibly the flattering expressions, and fervent wishes with which you have accompanied them, and make a tender of mine, with much cordiality, in return. It now rests with the Confederated Powers,⁸⁴ by the line of conduct they mean to adopt, to make this Country great, happy, and respectable; or to sink it into littleness; worse perhaps, into Anarchy and Confusion; for certain I am, that unless adequate Powers are given to Congress for

84. States.

the *general* purposes of the Federal Union that we shall soon moulder into dust and become contemptable in the Eyes of Europe, if we are not made the sport of their Politicks; to suppose that the general concern of this Country can be directed by thirteen heads, or one head without

competent powers, is a solecism, the bad effects of which every Man who has had the practical knowledge to judge from, that I have, is fully convinced of; tho' none perhaps has felt them in so forcible, and distressing a degree. The People at large, and at a distance from the theatre of Action, who only know that the Machine was kept in motion, and that they are at last arrived at the first object of their Wishes are satisfied with the event, without investigating the causes of the slow progress to it, or of the Expences which have accrued and which they now seem unwilling to pay; great part of which has arisen from that want of energy in the Federal Constitution which I am complaining of, and which I wish to see given to it by a Convention of the People, instead of hearing it remarked that as we have worked through an arduous Contest with the Powers Congress already have (but which, by the by, have been gradually diminishing) why should they be invested with more?

To say nothing of the invisible workings of Providence, which has conducted us through difficulties where no human foresight could point the way; it will appear evident to a close Examiner, that there has been a concatenation of causes to produce this Event; which in all probability at no time, or under any Circumstances, will combine again. We deceive ourselves therefore by

this mode of reasoning, and what would be much worse, we may bring ruin upon ourselves by attempting to carry it into practice.

We are known by no other character among Nations than as the United States; Massachusetts or Virginia is no better defined, nor any more thought of by Foreign Powers than the County of Worcester in Massachusetts is by Virginia, or Glouster County in Virginia is by Massachusetts (respectable as they are); and yet these Counties, with as much propriety might oppose themselves to the Laws of the State in wch. they are, as an Individual State can oppose itself to the Federal Government, by which it is, or ought to be bound. Each of these Counties has, no doubt, its local polity and Interests. these should be attended to, and brought before their respective legislatures with all the force their importance merits; but when they come in contact with the general Interest of the State; when superior considerations preponderate in favor of the whole, their Voices should be heard no more; so should it be with individual States when compared to the Union. Otherwise

I think it may properly be asked for what purpose do we farcically pretend to be United? Why do Congress spend Months together in deliberating upon, debating, and digesting plans, which are made as palatable, and as wholesome to the Constitution of this Country as the nature of things will admit of, when some States will pay no attention to them, and others regard them but partially; by which means all those evils which proceed from delay, are felt by the whole; while the compliant States are not only suffering by these neglects, but in many instances are

injured most capitally by their own exertions; which are wasted for want of the United effort. A hundd. thousand men coming one after another cannot move a Ton weight; but the united strength of 50 would transport it with ease. so has it been with great part of the expence which has been incurred this War. In a Word, I think the blood and treasure which has been spent in it has been lavished to little purpose, unless we can be better Cemented; and that is not to be effected while so little attention is paid to the recommendations of the Sovereign Power.

To me it would seem not more absurd, to hear a traveller, who was setting out on a long journey, declare he would take no Money in his pocket to defray the Expences of it but rather depend upon chance and charity lest he should misapply it, than are the expressions of so much fear of the powers and means of Congress. For Heavens sake who are Congress? are they not the Creatures of the People, amenable to them for their Conduct, and dependant from day to day on their breath? Where then can be the danger of giving them such Powers as are adequate to the great ends of Government, and to all the general purposes of the Confederation (I repeat the word *genl* , because I am no advocate for their having to do with the particular policy of any State, further than it concerns the Union at large). What may be the consequences if they have not these Powers I am at no loss to guess; and deprecate the worst; for sure I am, we shall, in a little time, become as contemptable in the great Scale of Politicks as we now have it in our power to be respectable;

and that, when the band of Union gets once broken, every thing ruinous to our future prospects is to be apprehended; the best that can come of it, in my humble opinion is, that we shall sink into obscurity, unless our Civil broils should keep us in remembrance and fill the page of history with the direful consequences of them.

You say that, Congress loose time by pressing a mode that does not accord with the genius of the People, and will thereby, endanger the Union; and that it is the quantum they want. Permit me to ask if the quantum has not already been demanded? Whether it has been obtained? and whence proceed the accumulated evils, and poignant distresses of many of the public Creditors, particularly in the Army? For my own part I hesitate not a moment to confess, that I see nothing wherein the Union is endangered by the late requisition of that body; but a prospect of much good, justice, and propriety from the compliance with it. I know of no Tax more convenient; none so agreeable, as that which every man may pay, or let it alone as his convenience, abilities, or Inclination shall prompt. I am therefore a warm friend to the Impost.

I can only repeat to you, that whenever Congress shall think proper to open the door of their Archives to you, (which can be best known, and with more propriety discovered through the Delegates of your own State), All my Records and Papers shall be unfolded to your View, and I shall be happy in your Company at Mr. Vernon, while you are taking such Extracts from them, as you

may find convenient. It is a piece of respect wch. I think is due to the Sovereign Power to let it take the lead in this business (without any interference of mine). and another reason why I choose to withhold mine, to this epoch is, that I am positive no History of the Revolution can be perfect if the Historiographer has not free access to that fund of Information.

Mrs. Washington joins me in Compliments to Mrs. Gordon and I am etc.

***To BARBÉ MARBOIS**

Hd. Qrs., Newburgh, July 9, 1783.

Sir: The last Post brought me the honor of your favor of the first Instr. inclosing an Extract from the Letter of Monsr. de Malesherbes⁸⁹ to you.

I hardly know how, sufficiently, to express my gratitude and thanks to that Gentleman for his intended favors, and the polite and flattering manner in which he seems disposed to confer them. Nor can I sufficiently express my concern for the trouble he has had from my improper explanation to the misconception of my good and amiable friend the Marqs. de la Fayette.

89. Chrétien Guillaume de Lamoignon de Malesherbes, royal councillor, Minister of State of France.

To cultivate Exotics for the purpose of making Wine, or for my amusement, was never contemplated by me. The spontaneous growth of the Vine in all parts of this Country; the different qualities of them and periods for maturation, led me to conclude that by a happy choice of the species I might succeed better than those who had attempted the foreign vine; accordingly, a year or two before hostilities commenced I selected about two thousand cuttings of a kind which does not ripen with us (in Virginia) `till repeated frosts in the Autumn meliorate the Grape and deprive the Vines of their leaves. It is then, and not before, the grape (which is never very palatable) can be Eaten.

Several little Essay's have been made by Gentlemen of my acquaintance to cultivate the foreign grape, for Wine but none had well succeeded; owing either to an improper kind or the want of skill in the management; for the most part their Wine soon contracted an acidity, which rendered it unfit for use; one cause of which I ascribed to the ripening of their grape in our Summer or Autumnal heats and to the too great fermentation occasioned thereby. This consideration led me to try the wild grape of the Country; and to fix upon the species which I have already described, and which in the Eight years I have been absent from my Estate has been little attended to. Had I remained at home, I should `ere this, have perfected the experiment which was all I had in view.

Thus my good Sir, have I given you the history of my proposed cultivation of the Vine; and all I ever had in

contemplation to attempt. I feel unhappy therefore at being the innocent cause of so much trouble to Monsr. de Malesherbes whose politeness, and goodness upon this occasion seem to have no bounds and fill me with gratitude and acknowledgment which I beg the favr. of you to convey to him in such terms as I know you are Master of, and which will do more justice to my feelings than any Expression of my own.

If notwithstanding my former plans Monsr. de Malesherbes will honr. me with a few sets, or cuttings of any *one* kind (and the choice is left altogether to himself) I will cultivate them with the utmost care. I will always think of him when I go into my little Vineyard; and the first fruits of it shall be dedicated to him as the Author of it. If to these he would add a few sets of the several kinds of Eating Grape for my Gardens it would add much to the obligation he seems so well disposed to confer on me.

For the trouble you have had, and I am about to give you in this business you will please to accept my thanks and the assurances of that esteem etc.

***To GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX**

State of New York, July 10, 1783.

My dear Sir: With very sincere pleasure I receiv'd your favor

of the 26th. of March. It came to hand a few days ago only; and gave me the satisfaction of learning that you enjoyed good health, and that Mrs. Fairfax had improved in hers. there was nothing wanting in this Letter to give compleat satisfaction to Mrs. Washington and myself, but some expression to induce us to believe you would once more become our Neighbours. Your House at Belvoir I am sorry to add is no more, but mine (which is enlarged since you saw it) is most sincerely and heartily at your Service till you could rebuild it.

As the path, after being closed by a long, arduous, and painful contest, is to use an Indian Methaphor, now opened and made smooth, I shall please myself with the hope of hearing from you

frequently; and till you forbid me to indulge the wish I shall not *despair* of seeing you and Mrs. Fairfax once more the Inhabitants of Belvoir, and greeting you both there, the intimate companions of our old Age, as you have been of our younger years.

I cannot sufficiently express my sensibility for your kind congratulations on the favourable termination of the War, and for the flattering manner in wch. you are pleased to speak of my instrumentality in effecting a revolution, which I can truly aver was not in the Beginning, premeditated; but the result of dire necessity brought about by the persecuting spirit of the British Government."⁹¹ This no man can speak to with more certainty, or assert upon better ground than myself, as I was a member of Congress

91. Fairfax had written (Mar. 26, 1873): "Permit me, tho' an humble individual, and unfortunately out of the way of contributing my mite to the great, the glorious cause of Liberty, to offer my best thanks for all your Exertions, disinterested perseverance to the End of the great work...I glory in being called an American....During the War, I frequently did myself the honor of Addressing a line to you, some of which I hope kis'd your hand, others were I know Intercepted, and sent to the Minister, one of which, had like to have cost me dear, but happily for me, I was related to a Lady, whose interest at Court saved me from persecution. I every moment expected a Messenger to take me in Custody...Indeed my dear Sir, I have been in very disagreeable Situations, was obliged to leave Yorkshire, to get out of the way of being informed against, by some Relations, who I apprehended, would have hung me, to gett my little Estate joining to theirs. but I thank Heaven, you and our brave countrymen, times are greatly altered, and I am now as much Courted, as I was before dispised as an American...It is not possible for you to conceive how I am pestered, by applications, for Letters of introduction to your Excellency: and other Persons of consequence in Virginia, by Men, that would twelve months ago, have thought it a reflection upon them to be even seen in my Company." Fairfax's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

and in the Councils of America till the Affair at Bunker hill and was an attentive observer and witness to those interesting and painful struggles for accommodation, and redress of grievances in a

Constitutional way which all the world saw and must have approved, except the ignorant, deluded, and designing.

I unite my prayers most fervently with yours, for Wisdom to these U States and have no doubt, after a little while all errors in the present form of their Government will be corrected and a happy temper be diffused through the whole; but like young heirs come a little prematurely perhaps to a large Inheritance it is more than probable they will riot for a while; but, in this, if it should happen, tho' it is a circumstance which is to be lamented (as I would have the National character of America be pure and immaculate) will work its own cure, as there is virtue at the bottom.

You speak of having written many Letters to me during the War; but few, very few indeed have ever reached me. Early, and repeatedly, did I advise you of the impracticability, while I continued to direct the Military operations of this Country, of my paying the smallest attention to your Interest in Virginia, and pressed you to name some other friend to superintend your business. Upon your suggestion of Mr. Nicholas I wrote to him on the subject without obtaining an answer; and wrote, and wrote again to him Months after he was dead, so little acquainted was I with the private occurrences of our own State; nor to this moment have I got an answer from any one on the Subject, and know as little, perhaps less

than you do, of the situation of your Affairs in Virginia. I have been in the State but once since the 4th. of May 1775 and that was at the Siege of York; in going thither I spent one day at my own House, and in returning I took 3 or 4 without attempting to transact a particle of private business, even for myself. I do not conceive that it would be any consolation to you to hear that your Neighbours were equal Sufferers with yourself or you might thank God as an Overseer in the Service of your Father in Law did when he was rendering an Acct. to his Employer in the time of a calamitous dearth. of the miserable prospect before him and the probability of their starving, that his Neighbours were as bad off as himself.

The amiable Mr. Custis was taken Sick at the Siege of York, and died at Colo. Bassetts the of Novr. he has left four lovely Children;⁹² three girls and a boy (the latter is the youngest) who were all

very well and promising when we heard last from them. His widow is yet single, and lives where he did, at the place formerly Robt. Alexanders⁹³ (above Alexandria) which he bought and handsomely approved [*sic*] before his death.

Mrs. Washington enjoys an incompetent share of health; Billious Fevers and Cholic's attack her very often, and reduce her low; at this moment she is but barely recovering from one of them; at the same time that she thanks Mrs. Fairfax and you for your kind suggestion of Doctr. James's Annaliptic Pills, she begs you both to accept her most Affectionate regards; she would have conveyed these in a letter of her own, with grateful

92. Elizabeth Parke, born Aug. 21, 1776, known as "Eliza," who married Thomas Law; Martha Parke, born Dec. 31, 1777, who married Thomas Peter; Eleanor Parke, born Mar. 21, 1779, known as "Nellie," who married Lawrence Lewis; and George Washington Parke, born Apr. 30, 1781, who married Mary Lee Fitzhugh.

93. "Abington." It is no longer standing.

acknowledgments of Mrs. Fairfax's kind remembrance by Mr. Lee, if her health would have allowed it.

I wait with great impatience the arrival of the Definitive Treaty, that I may quit my Military employments, and bid adieu to public life, and in the shades of retirement seek that repose and tranquillity to which I have been an entire stranger for more than Eight years. I wish for it too because it will afford me some leizure to attend to an impaired fortune and recover, as it were from a state of torpidity or suspension; except in the instances of having money paid to me at a depreciated value.

My warmest and best Affections attend Mrs. Fairfax and yourself; and I am etc.

***To MAJOR JOHN JOINER ELLIS⁹⁰**

Hd. Quarters, in the State of New York, July 10, 1783.

Sir: You profess not to be a panegyrist while you are bestowing the most exalted praise; but compliments apart, I received your very polite Letter of the 25th. of Mar: with much pleasure. It recalled to my remembrance some of the pleasing occurrences of my past life and reminded me of the Acquaintances I had formed

90. Major of the Eighty-ninth Foot, British Army. He wrote from Worcester, England.

in it; for whom, tho' seperated by time, distance, and political Sentiments I retain the same Friendship.

I was opposed to the policy of G: B; and became an enemy to her measures; but I always distinguished between a Cause and Individuals; and while the latter supported their opinions upon liberal and generous grounds, personally, I never could be an enemy to them.

I have only to request therefore, that you will suffer me to retain that place in your friendship of which you assure me I now hold. That you will accept my sincere thanks for the favorable Sentiments you have been pleased to express of me. and will do me the justice to believe, that with great esteem and regard I have the honor, etc.

***To WILLIAM DREW**

Newg., July 10, 1783.

Sir: The Sister of the late Majr. Genl. Lee (In England) has requested me to get and send her an Authentic Copy of his Will. As I am informed the record of it is in the County of which you are Clerk I pray you to send me an Official and formal Copy for that Lady, the

expence of which will be paid by Sir yr. etc.

***To DANIEL PARKER**

Newburgh, July 16, 1783.

Sir: The letters herewith inclosed will shew the Sum I am indebted to Colo. Henley,³ and by what means it arose. I shall thank you for discharging it.

I have repeatedly called upon Mr. Smith⁴ for the Amount of my Acct; as well for those Articles which you have procured for me in New York, as for those obtained from your Store at this place; I have not yet got it; tho I wish much to discharge the whole, that I may have nothing to settle (of a private nature) when the Definite Treaty arrives, and I am about to retire from my present Command and this part of the Country.

I congratulate you on your recovery from the Fever with which you were siezed in New York, and am etc.

3. Col. David Henley.

4. Melancton Smith.

***To DOCTOR JEAN PIERRE LE MAYEUR**

Newburgh, July 16, 1783.

Sir: The Valse arrived safe; as the three articles² wch accompanied your card of the first Instt. also did but the latter did not get to hand till yesterday. I can only repeat my thanks to you for your great and constant attention to me, and wish for oppertunities to shew my sense of them.

The small matters which were expected from Virginia are not yet received, and it is to be feared will never be found. I am going to make an excursion which will, I expect, employ fifteen or 18 days.

You will be pleased to receive further assurances of the pleasure I shall have in entertaining you at my House in Virginia, and in shewing you every Civility in my power in that State. I am etc.

***To JAMES McHENRY**

Newburgh, August 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: After a tour of at least 750 Miles (performed in Nineteen days) I returned to this place yesterday afternoon,

2. Dental articles.

where I found your favor of the 31st. Ulto. intimating a resolution of Congress for calling me to Princeton, partly as it would seem, on my own Account, and partly for the purpose of giving Aid to Congress; but the President not having sent on the Resolution I am left ignorant of the particular objects Congress have in view, any further than can be collected from the expressions of his and your Letters so far then as they may relate to a Peace establishment my Sentiments in the freest and fullest manner have been communicated to a Committee of which Colonel Hamilton was Chairman. If the principal object in view, by my attendance, respects Congress! cannot hesitate a moment to make the earliest compliance in my power; but if the resolution is calculated for my convenience, I cannot say that it will render my situation more eligible than the present; especially taking into consideration the inconvenience of a removal for so small a distance, and a new establishment of a Household which must be formed in consequence of breaking up the menial part of my family here.

My principal intention in my Letter of the 16th. Ulto. was to express the disagreeableness of my present situation, waiting as I am, with little business and less Command for the Definitive Treaty; when I have so anxious a desire of retiring from Public business and reestablishing myself in domestic Life where my private concerns call loudly for my presence.

I wish you therefore, my dear Sir, to transmit to me by the earliest opportunity, a Copy of the resolution,

with an explanation of the particular Reasons and motives which have influenced Congress to pass it, that I may be enabled to regulate my conduct accordingly. With the greatest esteem, etc.²⁷

To COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON³⁴

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

[My Lady: Within the course of a few days] I have received the Letter you was pleased to Honor me with from Bath, of the 20th of february.³⁵ and have to express my respectful Thanks to your Goodness, for the marks of Confidence and Esteem contained therein.

Your [Ladyships] benevolent Designs toward the Indian Nations, claim my particular Attention, and to further so laudable an Undertakg will afford me much pleasure, so far as my Situation in Life, surrounded with many and arduous Cares will admit. To be named as an Executor of your Intentions, may perhaps disappoint your [Ladyships] Views; but so far as my general Superintendence, or incidental Attention can contribute to the promotion of your Establishment, you may command my Assistance.

My Ancestry being derived from

27. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by William W. Cohen, of New York City.

34. Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon, wife of Theophilus Hastings, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, was the founder of "Lady Huntingdon's Connexion," and an intimate with the Wesleys. She was a member of the first Methodist Society in Fetter Lane, 1739; was 76 years of age in 1783. (See Washington's letter to Richard Henry Lee, Feb. 8, 1785, *post.*)

35. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

Yorkshire in England, it is more than probable that I am entitled to that honorable Connection, which you are pleased to mention; independent however of this privelidge, the Veneration with

which your [Ladyships] Character, heretofore known, has impressed me, justly entitled you to rank high in my Esteem.³⁶ The same Sentiments of respect and regard lead Mrs Washington to thank you for the distinguished mention you are pleased to make of her. [With great considn. etc.]³⁷

To GEORGE MARTIN

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: So long a Course of Time as you mention, had indeed obscured the Remembrance of our former Acquaintance, 'till the Letter³⁸ you have favored me with, bro't the recollections of your Name to my Mind. Your good Sense has furnished me with an Apology should any be needed; and the Occasion which introduces this renewal of former Times, is most pleasing indeed.

Your Congratulations to our happy-fated Country, are very agreeable, and your Expressions of personal Regard for me, claim my sincerest Thanks, as do your Exertions in favor of our

36. The common ancestor of the Countess and Washington was Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave.

37. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

38. Martin's letter, dated Mar. 1, 1783, was from Dublin, Ireland, but is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

righteous Cause, now so happily terminated.

I cannot but join with you in my most earnest prayers, that these States may be blessed with Wisdom equal to the arduous Task of rightly formg the Establishment of their New Empire. And while I thus express my Wishes in favor of my Native Country, I would felicitate the Kingdom of Ireland on their Emancipation from British Controul, and extend my pious Entreaties, that Heaven may establish them in a happy and perpetuated Tranquility, enjoying a freedom of Legislation,

and an unconfined Extension of Trade, that connecting Link, which binds together the remotest Countries.

It is at present very uncertain how far the Connection of these States with distant Courts, may be extended, or what Appointments of this Nature may be made; their poverty, with the heavy Debt contracted during the Period of their Troubles, must for a Time, lead them to Oeconomise in every Way possible; nor can I say how far I may be instrumental, should Appointments be necessary in procuring what you wish. [I only wait the arrival of the Definitive Treaty to bid adieu to Public life and the shades of retirement to enjoy undisturbed that tranquility and repose which is necessary to unbend and give relaxation to a Mind wch. has been embarrassed by a thousd. perplexing circumstances during a painful contest of 8 years.]

Your poem is very acceptable, as it not only displays your Genius, but exhibits Sentiments favorable to

the Liberties of Mankind, and expressive of the Benevolence of your Heart. I am &c.³⁹

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT STEWARD**

State of New York, August 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: I received with much pleasure by the last Mail from Philadelphia, your favor of the 19th. of April from London. For the Affectionate, and flattering expressions contained therein you will please to accept my warmest and most grateful acknowledgments.

This Letter removed an apprehension wch. I had long laboured under, of your having taken your departure for the Land of Spirits. How else could I acct. for a Silence of fully 15 years; for I think it must be at least that number since I heard *from* you, and not less than 9 or 10 since I could hear a tittle of you; altho' when I had opportunity, I made it a point to enquire.

You may be assured Sir that I should ever feel pleasure in rendering you any Service in my power; but I will not be so uncandid as to flatter your expectations, or give you any hope of my doing it in the way you seem to expect. In a Contest, long, arduous and painful; which has brought forth the

39. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

abilities of men in Military and Civil life and exposed them with Halts abt. their Necks, not only to common danger but many of them to the verge of poverty and the very brink of ruin, justice requires, and a grateful Governmt. certainly will bestow, those places of honor and profit which necessity must create upon those who have risked life fortune and Health to support its cause; but independent of these considerations I have never interfered in any Civil Appointments; and I only wait (and with anxious impatience) the arrival of the Definitive Treaty, that I may take leave of my Military Employments and by bidding adieu to Public life, for ever, enjoy the Shades of retirement that ease and tranquillity to which, for more than Eight years, I have been an entire stranger and for which a Mind which has been constantly on the stretch during that period and perplexed with a thousand embarrassing Circumstances, oftentimes without ray of light to guide it; stands much in need.

Gratitude to a Nation to whom I think America owes much, and an ardt. desire to see the Country and Customs of the French People, are strong inducemts. to make a visit to France; but a consideration more powerful than these will I dare say, be an insuperable Bar to such a tour. An impaired fortune (much injured by this Contest) must turn me into those walks of retirement, where perhaps the consciousness of having discharged to the best of my Abilities the great trust reposed in me and the duty I owed my Country must supply the place of other gratifications and may perhaps afford as

rational and substantial entertainment as the gay scenes of a more enlarged theatre.

I shall always be happy to see you at Mt Vernon. Mrs. Washington who enjoys but a very moderate share of health, unites in best wishes for your health and prosperity with Dr. Sir, etc.

To REVEREND JACOB DUCHÉ

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 2d. of April,⁴⁰ and reflecting on its Contents, I cannot but say that I am heartily sorry for the Occasion which has produced it, personal Enmity I bear none, to any Man; so far therefore as your Return to this Country depends on my private Voice, [it would be given in favor of it with chearfulness.] But removed as I am from the people and the policy of the State in which you formerly resided and to whose determination your case must be submitted, It [is my Duty whatevr. may be my Inclinatn. to] leave its decision to its constitutional Judges; [should this be agreeable to your wishes it cannot fail to meet my entire approbation.] I am etc.⁴¹

40. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

41. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

***To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE**

Newburgh, August 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: My outfit for the Army in 1775. the Expenditures on my Journey to Cambridge (in which those of General Lee, and both our Suits were included), and part of the Expences of my Household for some time after my arrival there was borne, as will appear by my Accts. (which are now ready for examination) and from the dates of the public advances to me, by my private purse; the amount of these Expenditures is yet due to me; as all the Money which I have received from the Public has been applied to and expended for public uses. I mention this matter now, previous to the Exhibition of my accts. because to make Some little preparation for my return home, I requested Colo. Biddle,

hearing that Goods were under par in Philadelpa to purchase me some Articles of which my Estate stood much in need. this in part, he has done, to the amount, as pt. Bills, to £204:9:3, exclusive of his Commission; and cost of forwarding them to Virginia.

I depended on this part of my claim upon the public, to make these purchases and to answr. some other demands of me and shall be happy if it is in your power to serve me. My Accts. which I perswade myself will appear fair and very moderate, will shew that I am not asking of the Public, an advance of Money; but claiming as small part only of what it has had the use of for more

than Eight years; with great esteem etc.⁵³

***To CLEMENT BIDDLE**

Newburgh, August 13, 1783.

Dear Sir: Upon my return from a Tour to the Northern and Western parts of this State I found your Letter of the 23d. Ult. but not in time to give it an acknowledgment by the last Post, and to thank you for your attention to my Commission. I now do it; and by this opportunity have requested the Superintendent of Finance to repay you the Sums which you have advanced for my use; with a Commission thereon; but as the poverty of the public Treasury, and Urgent calls upon the financier for contracts, which must be fulfilled, may render it difficult if not impracticable for him to comply with my wishes, (altho' I am only asking a part of what! have actually expended of my own money in the public Service) I must beg you to give me instant notice and I will, if opportunity offers, send you the money from this place; or if it could be made convenient to yourself, to draw on me here it should be paid on demand.

The Intercourse between my House and

53. Morris answered (August 20): "The Business mentioned in it does by no means fall within my Cognizance but is purely in your own Discretion. You may indeed by the Exhibition of your Account at the Treasury bring it under my notice but this is exactly what I would advise not to do

because as the Ballance would in that Case be certified among the old Debts I could only direct it to be placed on Interest. If on the contrary you direct Payment of the Amount from the Pay Chest, which I conceive you have a Right to do, then on the Exhibition of your accounts they will stand completely ballanted. I mention this for two Reasons, first because I wish to facilitate your Views, and secondly because I think that Congress have made you the sole Judge as to the Extent and manner of your Expend and that it is my Duty to enable the Paymaster to answer your Drafts.” Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Alexandria is such, as to render the deposite of Goods at that place where it does not interfere with the Entry much more convenient than at George Town; and Fitzgerald or Hooe,⁵⁵ would be attentive to the forwarding of them. The Table Cloths which are contained in my Invoice, are wanted for the common sized square Tables. one dozn. of whih. if they are to be had of any length) may be long enough to cover two Tables; or if they are in the piece, they should not be cut at all, but so many Yards purchased as will make one dozn. of each kind.

I am informed that several Ships have already arrived at your Port with Irish Indented Servants, and that more are expected; should you find among these a good House Joiner and could purchase him at a price not exceeding Thirty pds. I should thank you for doing it, and sending him to my House. I know it is difficult if not impracticable to come at a perfect knowledge of the disposition and character of these kind of Gentry before hand; but there is something in the age, appearance, and Countenance of them, which, with the Information that may be obtained from the Sailors that will go a good way towards informing the judgment. for a fortunate choice; the examination of a workman will be necessary to ascertain the knowledge of his profession. Mrs. Washington joins me in best respects to Mrs. Biddle. I am, etc.⁵⁶

55. John Fitzgerald or Robert Townsend Hooe.

56. Biddle's answer (September 17) is in the *Washington Papers*, and on September 20 Washington wrote him in return: “I am sorry Mr. Morris did not pay the money at the time and in the manner I expected. Inclosed I send you Eight Hundred Dollars in Bank Notes, and will write to you more

fully in a day or two; business prevents me from doing it at this Moment.” This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To MISS JANET DALGLEISH⁵⁸**

State of New York, August 15, 1783.

Madam: I have lately been favord with a Letter from you dated 28th. of Feby. in the present year,⁵⁹ and as it is impossible for me, by any personal enquiries or application, to assist you in the recovery of your Brother Debts, I have transmitted your Letter and Acct. to an acquaintance of mine in Norfolk in Virginia, Thos. Newton Esqr. a Gentleman of character; and one who must have been intimately acquainted with your friends and their circumstances. This honor I had not, as the place of my residence (when at home) is distant more than two hundred miles from Norfolk, and nearly as many from Gloucester.

I wish Madam it was in my power to do more to oblige you than this Letter indicates. The distance I am at from Virginia, and the important charge committed to my care (which engrosses my whole time and attention) will not admit it. You will please to accept my thanks for the favorable Sentiments you have expressed for me. I am etc.

58. Of the Shore of Leith, Scotland.

59. A copy is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR**

Newburgh, State of New York, August 15, 1783.

Sir: Inclosed, I give you the trouble of a Letter from a Miss Janet Dalglish to me. As it is totally out of my power to render her any Service in the collectn. of her debts but wish to put her in the way to obtain justice, or at least to obtain a knowledge of the Situation of her Brothers Affairs; I

take the liberty of requesting that you would drop her a line of information on this Subject. I have acquainted her of my having written to you to this effect; and To know that the inclosure has got safe to your hands wd. be satisfactory to Dr. Sir etc.

***To JOHN SULLIVAN**

[Albany, August 4, 1783.]

Sir: The Count del Vermé, who will present you with this Letter, is an Italian Nobleman of Family and distinction, on his Travels thro' America. He comes warmly recommended by our Ministers at Paris, and from the opportunities I have had to form an opinion of him, does honor to his high birth and Education. These considerations, Sir, must be my Apology for the liberty I take in recommending him to your Civilities and Attention. I am &c.²⁴

24. This same letter was addressed to John Langdon and Nathaniel Tracy, and to Tracy's letter was added: "Should he stand in need of Money, be so good as to advance it to him, and his bills will be immediately paid."

Practically the same letter as above, but slightly briefer, was also addressed to Govrs. Jonathan Trumbull, William Greene, and President Meshech Weare. The letter to Greene is now (1934) in the possession of William Roelker, of East Greenwich, R. I.

On August 4 Washington wrote to George Augustine Washington, who was then in Rhode Island, introducing Verme. "I am thus far on my return to Newburgh, where I shall hope to find a letter from you indicative of your better health." This letter was printed in the *Magazine of American History*, vol. 5, p. 126.

***To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE**

Pr[inceton, August 27, 1783.]

Dr Sir: The [Gentleman who will] have the honor of [presenting this to] you, delivered m[e the inclosed (original) Letter.]

The House of [Robert Cary Esqr and Co.] of which Mr. Welc[h was one, was very] respectable; I corresponded with it many years, and had most of my Goods therefrom. Mr. Moore wishing to be introduced to you, carries with him in the inclosed recommendation all the knowledge I have of him for I never had the pleasure of seeing him till this day. I am etc.⁸⁴

84. This letter is mutilated. The words in brackets have been supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

To MRS. ANNIS BOUDINOT STOCKTON¹

Rocky Hill, September 2, 1783.

You apply to me, My dear Madam, for absolution as tho' I was your father Confessor; and as tho' you had committed a crime, great in itself, yet of the venial class You have reason good, for I find myself strangely disposed to be a very indulgent ghostly Adviser on this occasion; and, notwithstanding "you are the most offending Soul alive" (that is, if it is a crime to write elegant Poetry)² yet if you will come and dine with me on Thursday and go through the proper course of penitence, which shall be prescribed, I will strive hard to assist you in expiating these poetical trespasses on this side of purgatory. Nay more, if it rests with me to direct your future lucubrations, I shall certainly urge you to a repetition of the same conduct, on purpose to shew what an admirable knack you have at confession and reformation; and so, without more hesitation, I shall venture to command the Muse not to be restrained by ill-grounded timidity, but to go on and prosper.

You see Madam, when once the Woman has tempted us and we have tasted the forbidden fruit, there is no such thing as checking our appetites, whatever the consequences may be. You will I

dare say, recognize our being the genuine Descendents of those who are reputed to be our great Progenitors.

1. Annis Boudinot, sister of Elias Boudinot; married Richard Stockton, the Signer, who had died Feb. 28, 1781.

2. Her poem and letter, dated Aug. 28, 1783, and signed "Emilia," are in the *Washington Papers*.

Before I come to the more serious Conclusion of my Letter, I must beg leave to say a word or two about these Fine things you have been telling in such harmonious and beautiful Numbers. Fiction is to be sure the very life and Soul of Poetry. All Poets and Poetesses have been indulged in the free and indisputable use of it, time out of Mind. And to oblige you to make such an excellent Poem, on such a subject, without any Materials but those of simple reality, would be as cruel as the Edict of Pharaoh which compelled the Children of Israel to Manufacture Bricks without the necessary Ingredients. Thus are you sheltered under the authority of prescription, and I will not dare to charge you with an intentional breach of the Rules of the decalogue in giving so bright a colouring to the services I have been enabled to render my Country; though I am not conscious of deserving any thing more at your hands, than what the purest and most disinterested friendship has a right to claim; actuated by which, you will permit me, to thank you in the most affectionate manner for the kind wishes you have so happily expressed for me and the partner of all my Domestic enjoyments. Be assured we can never forget our friend at Morven; and that I am etc.³

3. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

***To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE**

Rocky Hill, September 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: Mrs. Washington and myself heard with much pleasure, from Major Jackson, that you and Mrs. Morris had in contemplation a visit to Prince Town; and we join very sincerely in offering you a Bed at our Quarters.⁶ The inconvenience of accepting it, can only be to yourselves, as the room is

not so commodious as we could wish; but, in the crowded situation of this place is equal perhaps to any you could get, and none would be happier in having you under their roof; we claim it indeed as a matter of right. Our best respects to Mrs. Morris and yourself. I am etc.

***To THOMAS PAINE**

Rocky Hill, September 10, 1783.

Sir: It is some time since I was favored with your Letter of the 22d. of July; not however by the Gentleman for whose benefit it was written; him I have not yet seen, when I do, I shall take pleasure in shewing him every civility in my power

6. Headquarters were at Mrs. Margaret Berrien's, the widow of Judge John Berrien. On September 4 Washington wrote to George Augustine Washington, from Princeton, N.J., from which the following is an extract: "After I wrote you from Newburg I repaired to this place by order of Congress, where it is probable I shall remain till the Definitive Treaty arrives, or till New York is evacuated when I shall take leave of Public life and repair to my own home and in ease and quiet enjoy that repose which I have been a stranger to for more than Eight years." This extract is taken from the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1937.

agreeably to your wishes.

But for an expression in your letter, which led me to expect that another on a more interesting subject would, soon follow (but which is not yet come to hand) I should have acknowledged the receipt of it long ago. I have learnt since I came to this place that you are at Borden Town; whether for the sake of retirement or œconomy I know not, be it either, for both, or whatever it may, if you will come to this place and partake of my Board I shall be exceedingly happy to see you at it. Your presence may remind Congress of your past Services to this Country, and if it is in my power to impress them, command my best exertions with freedom, as they will be rendered chearfully by one who entertains a lively sense of the importance of your Works and who with much pleasure subscribes himself Your sincere friend etc.

***To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Rocky Hill, September 11, 1783.

My dear Sir: It was with great concern I heard of your Indisposition; later Accts. say you were upon the recovery, and nothing would give me more pleasure than the

confirmation of it from under your own hand.

I am not able to give you any information on the point you requested, at our parting. Congress have come to no determination *yet* respecting the Peace Establishment, nor am I able to say when they will. I have lately had a conference with a Committee on this subject, and have reiterated my former opinions, but it appears to me that there is not a sufficient representation to discuss *Great* National points; nor do I believe there will be while that Honble. Body continue their Sessions at this place. The want of accomodation, added to a disinclination in the Southern Delegates to be further removed (than they formerly were) from the Centre of the Empire, and an aversion in the others to give up, what they conceive to be a point gained, by the late retreat to this place; keeps matters in an awkward Situation; to the very great interruption of National concerns. Seven States it seems (by the Articles of Confederation) must agree before any place can be fixed on for the Seat of the Federal Governmt; and Seven States it is said, never will agree. consequently as Congress came here, here they are to remain to the dissatisfaction of the Majority, and the great let to business; having none of the Public Offices about them, nor no places to accommodate them if they were brought up; And the Members from this, or some other Causes, are eternally absent.

Mrs. Washington has had a severe return of the Cholic since she came to this place, but is now as well as usual. She joins me very cordially in best wishes for your perfect

recovery, and in Affectionate Compliments to Mrs. Clinton. With the sincerest esteem etc.²¹

***To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE**

Rocky Hill, September 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th. of August with the accts. enclosed, did not reach my hands till within these few days.

I have no doubt, because I suppose S: C:²² to be an honest Man, that the Monies charged in his Acct. have been expended, and therefore should be paid; but the Services which were rendered by him (however well meant) was by no means adequate to these Expenditures. My Complaints on this head, before I knew the amount of his charges, you may remember were frequent; and but for the request of Count de Rochambeau, who told me that he had put money into your hands, and would continue to furnish you with more for the purpose of obtaining intelligence through this Channel, I should have discontinued the Services of S. C long before a cessation of hostilities took place, because his communications were never frequent, and always

21. From the original in Princeton University Library.

22. Samuel Culper.

tedious in getting to hand.

At present, as your Acct. has no credits to it, it is impossible for me to strike the Balle. I know what Sums you have had from me, but if there are any credits due to it for monies furnished by the French General, it ought to be known, provided the Intelligence which was communicated to him came from Culper Sent. as the Acct. of this person (which is exhibited as an Article of charge against me) comprehends the whole of his Services and the Expences attending them; and that this was the case, I am to presume, as the Intelligence received by the Count (Copy of which he always forwarded to me) was precisely the same as that which was transmitted to me at the same periods.

As soon as you shall have furnished me with these documents and will let me know the Sum you received from Colo. Henley in the Year 1778 (the Accts. of whom being among Papers which are not easily got at) I will settle the acct; and use my best endeavors to obtain money to discharge the

Balle., wch. indeed will be no very easy matter, as it is with the utmost difficulty any can be had for the most indispensably necessary purposes; so little do the States *now* care for past Services and the means for rewardg. them.

I cannot conclude without offering you my sincere and affectionate thanks for your good wishes, and the favourable Sentiments you have been pleased to express of me; the ready obedience, and polite attention which I have ever experienced from

the officers of the Army, over whom I have had the honor to preside, fills me with the most pleasing sensations; the reflection of which will contribute not a little to my future happiness; to none, am I more indebted for these than to yourself, and with great truth I can assure you that at all times and in whatever place I may be, I shall have pleasure in seeing you, and making these acknowledgments, being with much truth Dr. Sir, etc.

***To DANIEL PARKER**

Rocky Hill, September 12, 1783.

Sir: If you have not already sent the two Pipes of Wine to Virginia which you promised to do, and it is no disappointmt. to you, to retain one of them the other will be suffit. for my purpose, as I have just got an Acct. of the arrival of two other Pipes of Madeira in Maryland, for my use.

If there are Wine and Beer Glasses (the latter of the same shape but larger in size) exactly like those which Mr. Fraunces brought to Orange Town, of which he will have a perfect recollection, I should be glad, if an oppertunity offers to Alexandria, to get Six dozn. or more of the first, and three dozn.

of the latter with as many Water Glasses, together with one dozn. and half neat quart decanters, and as many Water Bottles for Table use, carefully packed (which I am sure Mr. Fraunces will have done for me) and sent to that place.²³

The cost of these, together with the Pipe of Wine, and such other things as have been got on my *private* Acct. by Colo Smith or yourself, please to forward; and I will send you the Amount in Bank Notes by the first safe conveyance which shall present itself to me.

If there are none of the kind of Glasses here described, (which pleased my fancy) to be had, I would buy none; as I may have an opportunity of indulging my taste in another kind at Philadelphia (as I return home) upon as good terms as the New York Markets afford.

If a neat and compleat sett of blue and White Table China could be had upon pretty good terms, be pleased to inform me of it, and the price.²⁴ Not less than 6 or 8 dozn. Shallow and a proportionable number of Deep and other Plates, Butter Boats, Dishes and Tureens, will suffice. They some times come in compleat setts ready packed; shou'd this be the case, altho' there may be a greater number of Pieces than I have mentioned, I should have no objection to a case on that acct.

Be so good as to let me have your answer as soon as convenient, as it will prevent an application elsewhere, or may render one necessary. I wish also to know if you have

23. These glasses, water bottles, etc., were purchased by Samuel Fraunces on September 18 from Edward Nicholl, jr., at a cost of £42:10:0.

24. The blue and white china was also obtained September 18. It consisted of 205 pieces and cost 36 guineas.

On September 12 David Cobb wrote to Maj. William Macpherson that his request could not be granted as "all the Generals papers being packed for Transportation and at a distance from this place...but I am directed by His Excellency to inform you, that so far as he can recollect of the Letter you have reference to, the Marquis spoke of you in the highest terms and recommended you as an officer of the first merit." Cobb's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

received a Line from Colo. Cob respecting Tea &ca. I am etc.

PS. Will you be so good as to inform me what Goods, for family use, are very low in New York, and if they are to be had cheaper, than Goods of the same kind and quality, at Philadelphia.

***To LEWIS PINTARD**

Princeton, September 14, 1783.

Sir: Long before this letter can have reached you, the Cost of the first Wine had from Mr. Searle must, no doubt, have been paid to you; before the receipt of it, I saw Mr. Parker, who told me the Money had, for some time, been lodged in the hands of a Gentleman (whose name I do not now recollect) in New York, and notice given of it to the Person at whose House you usually lodge in the City.

I have since received a Letter, Invoice, and Bill of Lading for the two other Pipes of Wine from Mr. Searle together with a Box of Citron, and two Baskets of Figs; but instead of their being sent to my House on Potomack River agreeably to my *express* request, and according to the Tenor of the Bills of Lading, I have

received advice of their being Landed at Baltimore in Maryland; Sixty odd Miles distant by Land, and more than 300 by Water; how to Account for this I am at a loss, for it is not only contrary to my Order and expectation, but it is so contrary also to my wishes that I had infinitely rather they should be in Madeira; not on Acct. of the expence of transporting them from place to place, inland, nor on acct. of what is really pilfered; but because the quantity drawn is generally made good with something else, and the quality of the Wine, very often, totally ruined by it.

When I hear something further of these things, and have a satisfactory reason assigned for Landing them at Baltimore, instead of their being sent to Potomack as my Order pointedly required, I shall be ready to pay the further Sum of £74.9.6 Sterlg. to you, or your order; but I must confess, that in such an Article as Wine where Age and its being of a good quality Originally can alone render it valuable I can by no means reconcile it to myself to have it Landed in one State when it is Ordered

to another, thereby encountering *almost* the certainty of adulteration by common Boatmen, or commn Waggoners. I am etc.

***To DANIEL PARKER**

Rocky Hill, September 18, 1783.

Sir: Be so good as to receive from Colo. Smith, Fifty Guineas which were left in his hands, for my use, by the Count Del Vermé; and apply them to my Credit in payment for the Pipe of Wine (which was to be sent to Virginia) with the other things, if they could be got, agreeably to my former letter of the 12th.

You will do me a favor by requesting Mr. Fraunces to enquire if a *good* Cook, German I should prefer, could be obtained, and sent to me immediately. Mrs. Thompson,²⁷ formerly my Housekeeper and lately gone to the City probably can assist in the enquiries and examination. I want a Person that has understanding in the business. who can order, as well as get a dinner; who can make dishes, and proportion them *properly* , to any Company which shall be named to him to the amount of 30. If such a Person can be had who is well recommended for honesty, sobriety and good temper I should think myself fortunate.

As the army as well as many Genteel Families are now upon the point of leaving New York I should not conceive it to be very difficult to succeed. I am &c.

27. Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson.

***To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE**

Rocky Hill, September 22, 1783.

Sir: At the same time that I again thank your Excellency for offering me part of the Claret which you have at Baltimore, let me once more pray that my acceptance of it may put you to no inconvenience. I should be unhappy if I thought this would be the case. If, on the other hand, you

can conveniently spare it, and Colo. Tilghman should be in Baltimore, I could wish to have it put into his care; as he will, I am sure,

take pains to have it sent by a conveyance on which he can depend to my House in Virginia for the risk of adulteration is more to be apprehended than the quantity stolen in the transportation of it; two or three Hogsheads (as it best suits your Excellency) will be sufficient for my present purpose, and if you will be pleased to direct your merchant to furnish me with the Cost, the money shall be instantly paid to him, or to your order.

As I have never' been accustomed to Claret in Cask, I shall thank you, Sir, for information whether it is to be drawn from thence as it is used, or whether it is to be bottled before using.

I take the liberty of asking this question, because I am sure you will have the goodness not only to satisfy me in it, but to excuse me for the trouble I give you in doing it, being assured of the perfect respect and consideration with which I have the honor etc.

***To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

Rocky Hill, September 23, 1783.

My dear Sir: The favorable Sentiments expressed in

your private letter of the 17th. Inst, and which you say are felt by the Officers in general on the late honor conferred upon me by Congress,³⁹ cannot fail of adding greatly to my sensibility on the occasion. It always has, and I trust ever will be, the most pleasing reflection of my life that in a contest so important, so long, and so arduous, accompanied with such a variety of distressing and perplexing circumstances to all who have been concerned in it but more especially to the Officers of the Army that I have been able, to point my course in such a manner, as to have receiv'd many flattering testimonies of regard from the latter and proofs of general esteem from my Country at large.

I have left no opportunity unimproved to bring the Officers Petition to an Issue. I have not heard an uplifted voice against it since I came to this place; and if I am to form a judgment from what I have seen and heard, Congress is sincerely disposed to serve them. but there *was* a difficulty in the way of which I had no knowledge 'till I came here, and it is not *absolutely* got over yet:⁴⁰ That District of Country located by the Petitioners is part of the Land claimed by Virginia; Virginia, with certain reservations, and upon Condition that the United States should Guarantee the remainder of her Territory, ceded all the Land Northwest of the Ohio. To these terms Congress would not agree; thus matters had stood for more than two years, and thus I found them when I came here. I have laboured since, and I hope not unsuccessfully, to convince

39. Probably the resolves of Aug. 7, 1783, to erect an equestrian statue of Washington, which resolves were never carried out. The resolves are not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

40. The draft adds “tho' the general opinion is, it soon will be.”

the Members of Congress that while the United States and the State of Virginia are disputing about the right, or the terms of the Cession, Land jobbers and a lawless Banditti, who would bid defiance to the authority of either and more than probably involve this Country in an Indian War, would spread themselves over the whole of it, to the great injury to the Officers &ca. of the Army, who are patiently waiting the decision of Congress to settle in a legal manner and under a proper form of Government. Within these few days, Congress have accepted the Virginia Cession with some exceptions which the Delegates from that State *think* will be yielded to by the Assembly at its next meeting in October. In the mean time, if it can be done with propriety, I will endeavor to have preparatory arrangements made, that no delay may happen when the present difficulties shall be removed.

As I have never heard it suggested by any *Member of Congress* that General Lincoln either had offered, or proposed to offer his resignation upon the arrival of the Definitive Treaty (tho' I have

understood as much from himself) I have no ground, as yet, to work upon; but whenever the occasion shall offer, I shall not forget your wishes; nor shall I want inclination to promote them.

If you can learn by indirect means which of, or whether all the Engineers now at West point (if you could extend it to others thro' that channel so much the better), are inclined to remain in the American Service upon a Peace

Establishment I would thank you for the information.

I shall be obliged to you for pointing out, in *precise terms* , what is expected from the President of the Cincinnati previous to the general Meeting in May next. As I never was present at any of your Meetings, and have never seen the proceedings of the last, I may, by being deficient in information of the part I am to act, neglect some essential duty; which might not only be injurious to the Society, but Mortifying to myself, as it would discover a want of Knowledge, or want of attention in the President.

Humphreys and Walker have each had an ill turn, since they came to this place; the latter is getting about, but the other is still in his Bed of a fever that did not 'till yesterday quit him for 14 or 15 days. The danger I hope is now past, and he has only his flesh to recover, part of which, or in other words of the weight he brought with him from the Scales at West point he would readily compound for.

Mrs. Washington has also been very unwell as most of my domesticks and Guard have been and indeed now are.

Mrs. Washington and myself are very glad to hear that Mrs. Knox and the Children are well, she joins me very cordially in best wishes for them, and Compliments to General and Mrs. Huntington and all our Acquaintances with you.⁴¹ I am &c.

[MS.H.S.]

41. At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "As Mr. Moriss's distresses for want of money by no means diminish I not only approved of your."

***To WILLIAM FITZHUGH⁴²**

Princeton, September 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Count del Vermé who will present this

42. Of "Chatham," opposite Fredericksburg, Va.

letter to you, is an Italian Nobleman of distinction; on his Travels thro' America. He comes highly recommended by our Ministers at the Court of France, and from the opportunities I have had to form an opinion of him, is very deserving of attention. I take the liberty therefore of recommending him to your Civilities, and the Civilities of your Acquaintance.

As he has been through all the States Northward of this, and is now travelling to the Southward as far as Charles Town, there to Embark, it would be more satisfactory to pass down the Rappahannock to some certain point, and then cross over to York and James Rivers than to pursue the direct Road to the latter through the most uncultivated part of the whole State and I perswade myself he will derive such aids and direction from you as will render his tour most agreeable. I am &c.⁴³

***To MRS. RUTHY JONES**

Princeton, September 25, 1783.

Madam: A few days since Major Fishbourn, Aid de Camp to General Wayne, presented to me your letter of the 29th. of May from Belfast in Georgia. some years ago I had the honor to receive other letters from you on the same subject⁴⁴

43. On September 24 a shorter letter of the same purport was written to Gov. William Paca, of Maryland, and on this was the note: "Letters similar to the above were written to Govr. Harrison, Genl. Nelson. The Honble. Archibald Cary and Colo. Fitzgerald."

44. Asking for financial aid.

one of which dated at the same place, I embraced the earliest opportunity of answering, but suppose it never got to hand as your last is written under the same mistake as the former.

The relationship which you seem to suppose there is betwn. us does not exist of which you would have been clearly convinced if my former Letter had ever reached you.

My Father it is true had only one Brother; but this Bro: had Six Children; two Sons and four daughters, the eldest of whom Elizabeth died before him, in a Maiden State. the second, Mildred, is yet alive and a Widow having been twice married without Issue; the third, Warner, is also living; he has been twice Married, has had many Children and all of them are now with him; the 4th. Harry 5th. Catharine and 6th. Hannah are all 3 dead. Harry left 4 Children, A Son and 3 daughters two of the latter are dead; Catharine married Fielding Lewis Esqr. by whom she left a Son and daughter; the latter died without Issue; the former is now living. Hannah married a Whiting by whom she had a Son, who was an only child and who perished in the same Vessel in wch Mr. Lynch⁴⁵ and others from Charles Town were lost.⁴⁶

By comparing this acct. Madam, with yours sent me in a letter of the 15th. of Sept. 1776 (committed to the care of Genl. Howe) in these words "My worthy Grand Father, Mr. John Washington was an own

45. Thomas Lynch, jr., signer of the Declaration of Independence. The vessel was lost in 1779.

46. Augustine Washington died in 1743 and John Washington, his brother, died in 1746.

Brother to your venerable Father, who I dare say did not think, for years before he died, that any of his Brothers posterity were left, as my Grand father had but one Child which was my Mother &ca.” I say by comg. these Accts. it will evidently appr. that you have mistaken me for some other person, for besides the striking difference between the two accts. my Father died many years before my Uncle, and the Issue of neither ever removed from Virginia into any other State. or Province, as they have been heretofore called to reside.

I have given you this full, and candid state of facts, to prove to you beyond a possibility of doubt, that I am not related to you in the degree you suppose, nor in any other that I can have the smallest conception of. I am etc.

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

(Private)

Rocky Hill, October 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: The account we have frequently received (from one body and another) of Mrs. Morris and your coming to Princeton, kept Mrs. Washington and myself in continual expectation of that pleasure.

A desire of having the Paymaster General present while you were here, induced his stay at this place several days longer than he intended; and when the business at the army would no longer allow his absence from it, He did as he informed me on the 26th. of last month at my request, communicate a state of the Ballances which were due to, and from me, with the acct. of my immediate, pressing want; to you and his assistant in Phila. Having heard nothing from either of you since, as Mrs. Washington is now on her way home, and as it would be very convenient for me, that she should procure at Philadelphia some Articles of Furniture, and stores for my House in Virginia, if they are to be met with) I am in a manner compelled, very contrary to my inclination to ask if she could be furnished with about 1500 Dollars for these purposes. If this sum is supplied her

I will give a warrant upon the pay Chest or Account for it in any manner you shall direct, agreeably to the Tenor of your letter of the 20th. of August last.

Mrs. Washington accepts the kind

invitation which you and Mrs. Morris have been Obliging enough to give during the few days she may stay in Philadelphia and I can only repeat, with the usual sincerity, the pleasure I should feel in having you and Mrs. Morris if she inclines to honor Princeton with her Company, and can put up with Batchelors fare with me under my Roof. My best respects are offered to her. With great truth I remain, etc.

P. S. I had written the foregoing letter, before your favor of the 2d. came to hand, as I do not know what it is you allude to I am at a loss what answer to make to your question. and therefore would say, If it is claret that has been provided for me on Public acct. it ought by all means to come to me at this place; where, more than probably, my residence will be while I continue in the Service of the Public, if on the other hand it is any of those wines which have been sent to me from France by some of my Acquaintances there and of which I never could get any distinct acct. I would pray you to let it remain in your Cellar till you may be so good as to give me information on this head.⁶⁹

69. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

On October 7 Washington wrote a brief note to the President of Congress, transmitting a copy of Sir Guy Carleton's letter to him, dated Oct. 3, 1783, which is in the *Washington Papers*. Washington's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Rocky Hill, October 18, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I am favored with your two Letters of the 30 September.

The Debate on Indian affairs which I believe is got through, and that on the Residence of Congress which is yet in agitation has entirely thrown aside for some time the consideration of the Peace Establishment, when it is Resumed I will take care that your application comes into View and shall be happy if any thing in my power may contribute to its success. I am, etc.⁹⁶

***To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

Rocky Hill, October 23, 1783.

My dear Sir: Since the return of Genl. Lincoln, I have taken occasion to move a little on the subject of your

96. From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress. Hamilton wished to retain his army rank in the peace establishment, without pay or command.

letter of the 17th. of last Month, notwithstanding other matters have kept the Peace Establishment entirely out of view. I suppose, at least I so hope, that it will now be entered upon with a determination to go through with it, without more delay.

Upon enquiry, I do not perceive any intention to abolish the Office of Secretary at War; but to place it upon a more oeconomical plan. I find that, General Lincoln (I believe, before he went to the Eastward) was called upon to aid in this business. and that a Committee, in consequence, have actually reported to the effect of the enclosed paper which I obtained from General Lincoln; and have since found that it corrisponds with the report.

By what I can learn, there is a great diversity of Sentiment among the Members of Congress respecting the Peace Establishment; and that great opposition will be given to the Measure, when ever it is brought forward. It may be well therefore, for you to consider, whether upon the footing, and with the emoluments as agreed to by the Committee, the Office of Secretary at War (which I presume will very soon be acted upon) would meet your views. If it should, and you will let me

know it by the return of the Post, I will mention your name to more Gentlemen of my Acquaintance in Congress than I have already done, and should be happy if any endeavors

of mine, can serve you. Genl. Lincoln is of opinion, that a capable and confidential Assistant may be had for, say between 500 and a 1000 Dollars; but when to this Travelling expences, Wood, Paper, Candles &ca. are added, I should think it would sink pretty deep into the residue; *He* conceives otherwise, unless the Secretary, whoever he may be, chuses to travel with a retinue and incur more expence than is necessary. Whether the acceptance of this Office would open a door to any thing more than appears upon the fact of the report, is not for me to say; nor wd. it do I think to depend upon: The uncertainty of what Offices may take place, in case of a Peace establishment; or whether there will be a Continental Establishment or not, is such, that it is too hazardous for me to deliver any opinion upon, tho' I shall neglect no opportunity of making myself acquainted with the views of Congress, in all the Stages of this business, and I will drop you a line on the Subject.

My best wishes attend Mrs. Knox and I am with the greatest truth etc.

P S. Shaw, no doubt, will give you a full acct. of your Money applicn. the way have been so paved, that the only difficulty in it, I believe, is to get nine States (which are necessary in these cases) together.¹

[MS.H.S.]

1. On October 23 Washington wrote a duplicate of this letter, evidently to be sent to Knox by a different hand. In this the P. S. was entirely different from the above, being: "The Salary annexed to the Office of Secretary at War, by the Cornee, if my Merny. Serves me, is 3500 Dolts. With this, he is to keep a Clerk, or Assistant, always at the place where Congress resides and to bear the whole Expence of the Office in Wood, Candle and Paper. He himself is to visit the Magazines twice (I think) every year and to attend Congress occasionally." This duplicate is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

***To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE**

Rocky Hill, October 28, 1783.

Dear Sir: I heard today, with great pleasure, that Mrs. Morris and you intended to Princeton; and would be here at the time of the Public Audience which is to be given to the Dutch Minister.

I pray you to be assured, that you can make no Family *more* happy, than you would do mine, by lodging under their roof, and that nothing in my power shall be wanting, to make Mrs. Morris's time pass as agreeably as possible, in a Batchelors Hall.

I should do injustice to my sensibility, were I not to express my thanks to Mrs. Morris and you, for your polite attention and civilities to Mrs. Washington while she was in Philadelphia, and to assure you that with every sentiment of esteem etc.

***To THE COUNTESS OF TANKERVILLE**

Princeton in the State of New Jersey, October 30, 1783.

My Lady: About ten days ago I had the honor to receive your Ladyships favor of the 21st. of June from London.¹³

It is painful to me to be under the necessity of declining the trust which the Earl of Tankerville and your other Son the Honble. Mr. Bennett have invested me with. To discharge the duties of which, your Ladyships state of matters and request, would be strong excitements, if my situation was not such as would render it an act of injustice in me to undertake what I am *sure* I could not execute.

I am not yet returned to Virginia after an absence of almost nine years from my family and home; I have every reason to believe that my private concerns there are in a very deranged State but this does not give me so much pain as to *know* that those of others wch. had been committed to my care, are suffering equally. To recover all these from the disorder into which they have run will be

attended with more difficulty and require a much longer time than comports with that ease, and freedom from care, of which

13. Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

I stand very much in need.

Being altogether unacquainted with such a Gentleman as Colo. Robert I. Howe of Alexandria (the second person named in the Power of Attorney) unless thereby is meant Majr. Genl. Robert Howe, who neither is, or ever was of that place. I have sent it to Edmd. Randolph Esqr. the Attorney General. who, no doubt will advice you of his intention, and what further ought to be done. I have the honor etc.

***To WAKELIN WELCH**

Princeton in the State of New Jersey, October 30, 1783.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive the duplicate of your favor of the 31st. of May, the original is not yet come to hand. I am not yet returned to Virginia after an absence almost Nine Years from my Estate; when I get there and can have time to examine into the situation of my Affairs, I shall not want a disposition to do compleat and ample justice in the Settlement, and payment of all my Accounts. In the meantime, I cannot avoid complaining of the treatment I have met with from your House in misleading me, as to the mode of transferring the Bank stock.

Ten years ago, or more, when it was my desire to do this, and you were called upon to point out the form, I was run to considerable expence, and put to much trouble to follow your directions; after fulfilling which, I was told that mode would not do, and another was suggested, but the troubles commencing, and my leaving Virginia, prevented the execution of the second; I speak now from memory, but believe I have not misrecited facts.

As it now is, as it then was, my intention to apply this money towards payment of the Balle. I owed your House, I would beg of you to take out such powers for the transfer, and give me such precise

and ample directions for the execution as will admit of no doubt or delay. As the money will be for your benefit by its being applied to the credit of your Ho. I wish you to have the negociation of the matter; the Letter of Admn. power of Attorney or by whatever other name called may be made out in your name accordingly.

The Acct. Curr., alluded to in your letter not having yet got to hand, I cannot speak to the Contents. to the best of my recollection, your Ho. was indebted to the deceased Mr. Custis when I left Virginia in May 1775; what may have happened since, I know not, the year following, he took charge of his own Estate, I cannot be responsible therefore for what may have happened afterwards.

I have raised no Tobo. for severl. years on my Estate, whether I shall return to the growth of it again must depend upon the price it is likely to bear, and other circumstances; of which I can form no judgment 'till I get back to Virginia; which will be, I trust, so soon as the British Forces shall have evacuated New York. I condole with you on the loss of your Partners Messrs. Cary and Moorey¹⁴ at the sametime that I congratulate you on the happy termination of the War, and restoration of Peace. I am etc.

***To ROBERT LEWIS & SONS**

Rocky Hill, October 31, 1783.

Gentn.: Your favor of the 23d. is come to hand; since which I have received a letter from Mr. Lund Washington informing me, that Wm. Roberts my prest. Miller is not only uneasy at the thoughts of leaving my employ, but has given the strongest assurances of amendment if he should be continued. In consequence I have desired L W. to contract with him for another year, provided you do not by the first Post to the Southward inform him that you have engaged a Miller; in that

14. Robert Cary and John Moory.

case your bargain is to be binding. But as he has given Roberts no encouragement and matters hang in suspence I should be glad, if a good Miller should offer himself to you, that he may not be

refused till you hear from Lund Washington, whom I have desired to write to you on this subject without delay. I am etc.

***To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU**

Princeton, November 1, 1783.

My dear Count: Since my last, written about a fortnight ago, and put into the hands of Genl. Duportail to convey to you, I have been honored with your favor of the 24th. of April from Paris. Be assured, my dear General that these repeated assurances of your friendship and frequent testimonials of your affection for me are pleasingly grateful to me and makes a deep impression on My Mind.

Could I so far flatter my vanity as to believe that, a Visit from me to France, would afford any satisfaction to your August Sovereign as you seem to think it would it would add greatly, very greatly indeed to the pleasure I should feel in paying my respects to the Nation I esteem and the friends in it I love. And would make me forego many matters which private interest and convenience strongly prompt me to, to accomplish a voyage for this purpose.

We have this instant got the News of the Signing of the Definitive Treaty of Peace at Paris, on the 3d. of Septr. On this happy Event permit me to offer you my warmest Congratulations and to express to you how much and how sincerely I am etc.

Let me entreat you to present me to the Viscount de Rochambeau, and those Gentn. of the army you Commanded in the Country in terms of sincere regard as you may occasionally meet them.

To MAJOR WILLIAM JACKSON

Rocky Hill, November 1, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter reached me yesterday and informed me of your intention to embark next

Week for Europe.

Wishing from the esteem I entertain for your Character to render you every Service in my power, I could not avoid troubling you with the two inclosed Letters, tho' your acquaintance in France made it almost unnecessary.²²

You will please to accept my thanks for your obliging offers, and my wishes for your safe pleasant and prosperous Voyage. With great esteem I am, etc.²³

***To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

Rocky Hill, November 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: You will readily conceive how much I have been chagreened, and vexed at a loss occasioned by the stupidity of the Postmaster at Princeton, when I tell you, that the original of which the enclosed is a duplicate, and the first draughts of all my public and private letters written in the Six Weeks preceeding, were lost with the Mail on thursday Night last.

Having many letters to write by the Post the Week before, and being interrupted by

22. On November 1 Washington wrote introductory letters, practically the same, to Benjamin Franklin and Marquis de Lafayette, introducing Jackson. These drafts are in the *Washington Papers*.

23. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Company, I was unable to get my dispatches ready the overnight (as usual) for the Mail, but sent them off by day break the next Morning to the Post Office, the Manager of which, as the Mail, I presume, was made up the night before, being too lazy to get up, suffered the Post rider to go off without them. Ashamed to return or to acknowledge that he had not sent them, he kept them to go by the last Weeks Post, by which means I have not only lost all my dispatches, but the draughts, as

I have mentioned above, of all the letters which I have written within that course of time; they being enclosed to Colo. Varick for Registering.

Genl. Lincoln's resignation has been offered and accepted, he has been requested to continue the duties of Office till Congress Adjourn from this place before which it is thought no Successor will be appointed; it is very questionable indeed, whether after this day, there will be a sufficient number of States to do any business, important business there certainly will not.

I have conversed with several Members of Congress upon the propriety in time of Peace of Uniting the Office of Master of Ordnance and Secretary at War in one person, and letting him have the Command of the Troops on the Peace Establishment;

not as an appendage of right, for that I think would be wrong but by seperate appointment at the discretion of Congress; those I have spoken to on the subject seem to approve the idea which if adopted wd. make a handsome appointment; I will converse with others on this one head and let you know the result; my wishes to serve you in it you need not doubt, being with much truth Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

***To THE SECRETARY AT WAR**

Rocky Hill, November 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: As the Gentlemen⁴⁰ who are now remaining of my family, propose to honor me with their Company to my Ho. in Virginia and will of course need a little of their Pay, you will oblige both them and me, if you could devise a method by which three or four Months of it could be obtained. I am etc.

40. Humphreys, Cobb, and Walker.

***To ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

Rocky Hill, November 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: The enclosed is a letter which I had written, and was about to dispatch at the date of it; but upon second thoughts, determined to Postpone it, and try, if from the importance of the matter, I could not bring forward the Peace Establishment previously.

I have tried it, in vain, Congress; after resolving on the —⁴¹ of last Month to adjourn upon the 12th. of this, did, equally unexpectedly and surprizingly to me, finish their Session at this place the day before yesterday⁴²; without bringing the Peace Establishment, or any of the many other pressing matters, to a decision.

Finding this was likely to be the case, I shewed your letter to some of your particular friends, and consulted them on the propriety of making known your wishes; with my testimonial of your Services to Congress; but they adviced me to decline it, under a full persuasion that no discrimination would, or indeed could be made at this late hour, as every other Officer from the highest to the lowest grades (not in actual command)

41. October 30.

42. Adjourned November 4 to convene at Annapolis, Md., November 26, A sufficient number of the States were not represented until December 13.

were retiring without the retention of Rank, and that the remainder, upon a Peace Establishment (if a Continental one should ever take place) would come in upon the New System, under fresh appointments; so that unless you wished to come into actual command again, (which none supposed) they saw no way by which you could preserve your Rank.

I have the pleasure to enclose you a Brevet; giving you the Rank of full Colonel; and with best respects to Mrs. Hamilton and General Schuyler and family I am etc.⁴³

To JAMES DUANE

Poukeepsie, November 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am extremely happy to have it in my power to inform you, that Sir Guy Carleton has announced to me his intention, to relinquish the Posts he holds on York Island from Kings bridge to McGowens pass inclusive, on the 21st. Instant, Herricks & Hampstead with all to the Eastward on Long Island, on the same day, and if possible to give up the City with Brooklyn on the day following; and Paulus hook, Denycos, and Staten Island as soon after as practicable.

Should no material accident happen to retard them,

43. From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

I hope to have the pleasure of congratulating you on the full possession of this State by its Government, before the close of this Month. I have the honor etc.

[My best respects to Mrs. Duane, and to the good family where you are.]⁶³

[N.Y.H.S.]

63. In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The sentence in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

This same letter, with variations, was sent to Robert R. Livingston and Philip Schuyler.